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# Local Government Service

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## IS POPULAR EDUCATION WORTH WHILE?

TRAINING THE CITIZEN OF TO-MORROW: THE COST AND THE RETURN

By J. W. MARRIOTT

**A**NATIONAL education in this country is a gigantic business. It employs nearly 220,000 teachers to train over 100,000 children, and costs approximately £3,000,000 a year. Its organisation is highly complicated, and the ramifications appear to be endless, but the system works with remarkable smoothness and tends to become increasingly simple. Its supreme merit lies in the fact that, though Education Acts come from Parliament and the central authority operates from Whitehall, the administration devolves upon the local authorities. That is to say, the detailed working of our schemes of national education is now a function of local government. Moreover, nearly 50 per cent. of the cost of education—over £40,000,000—is provided by local rates.

### A Century Ago

When one recollects the state of education in Great Britain a century ago the progress that has been made is little less than astonishing. The Royal Commission which sat from 1858 to 1861 reported that there were 573,000 scholars in private schools, 671,000 in denominational and factory schools receiving no grant, and 917,000 in schools, mostly denominational, in receipt of grants. Hundreds of thousands of children went to no school at all, and those who did go to school attended generally for less than 100 days a year and left at the age of eleven. Furthermore, the quality of the education obtainable, when compared with modern standards, was lamentable.

An illiterate person to-day is an anachronism; he would be comical if his illiteracy were not such a terrible handicap to him. A work of such magnitude—the training of six millions of children scattered over the country—could not possibly be controlled from a single centre. On the other hand, if it had been decentralised, there would have been the danger of a "patch-work" system, with innumerable gaps and overlappings. The problem confronting local government was to secure organic unity, and this—either by good fortune or by good strategy—has been achieved during the present century.

### Effect of the 1902 Act

The Education Act of 1902, for example, replaced 3,351 separate and independent authorities (the old school boards) by 328 local education authorities, upon whom was imposed the statutory duty of administering the Acts. These local education authorities have been granted a large measure of freedom, but they do not pursue their several policies in complete isolation. The more advanced authorities seek to collaborate with the more backward; there is a "pooling" of ideas, a comparison of results, a strong tendency toward co-operation and uniformity. Thus the danger of the Local Government Service becoming a heterogeneous confusion of anomalies and inconsistencies has been avoided.

Again, the local educational authorities are in continuous touch with representatives of the teaching profession, and a further danger of



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disunity or of inharmonious administration is eliminated.

Nevertheless, seen from without, the scheme of education is apt to appear bewildering. One has to remember that in our local government system there are county authorities, county boroughs, municipal boroughs, and urban district councils. In some districts both the elementary and the secondary schools are controlled by the same authority; in others the elementary schools may be administered by the urban district, while the secondary schools are "under the county education committee." Again, the appointment of head teachers may be made by the county education committee in consultation with representatives of the local authority, whereas the assistant teachers may be appointed by the local managers.

In secondary and technical education there is often a local higher education authority consisting of county council representatives and representatives of the local council. A large town or city is independent of the county in which it is situated, and when, as occasionally happens, the town extends its boundaries certain of the schools become automatically detached from their previous authority.

If one could make a map showing the precise areas controlled by the various local education authorities, with all the overlappings and interlacings of the higher education committees, the result would be an extraordinary jig-saw pattern.

But the confusion is apparent rather than real, and the system justifies itself by the fact that it works. It is peculiarly a British system, and falls into line with British tradition. It was not created from without and then imposed upon us; it evolved from the forces of the time.

Education is the business of the whole nation, yet it is adapted to fit the needs and resources of each district. It affects the entire country *en masse*, but it is administered piecemeal by the local government. The matter is far too important to be left to the caprice of individuals or to private resources. It is a national necessity, like that of maintaining order or safeguarding the coast, and must be undertaken by the nation itself.

### Paying for Others

The childless man sometimes complains that he has to help to pay for other people's children; but he forgets that other people helped to educate him during his school days, and fails to consider the benefits he derives from living in an educated community. So, whether he approves of democratic education or not, he is driven sooner or later to realise that education is forced upon the country by the exigencies of international rivalry in commerce and industry. A modern nation must keep pace with other nations or perish. A badly educated country would be heavily handicapped in its fight against foreign competitors.

This necessity for education was less imperative in earlier centuries. Then the bulk of the world's work was done by heavy, unintelligent, manual labour, and so long as the masses of people continued to work hard they were able to provide for themselves and their families. Admittedly, the work was arduous, the hours at work excessive, the food inadequate, and the clothing of the poorest; but they did at least manage to exist. To-day, however, conditions are fundamentally different. The strong "navvy" type of worker is being superseded by mechanical power. Intelligence and skill are in perpetual demand. The changed circumstances of industry have placed "brawn" and muscle at a discount, while mental agility and technical knowledge are at a premium.

### Value to the Individual

This shows the need for an efficient educational system in the modern world; it is imposed upon us by the pressure of civilised life. When we come to consider the value of education to the individual its importance can hardly be exaggerated.

In a primitive society a child has a natural right to food, clothing, protection, and the satisfaction of his essential needs during the years when he is unable to take care of himself; in a civilised society a child's needs are much more extensive. The boy has to be prepared for the responsibilities of adult life. He has to be instructed in reading, writing, simple mathematical calculation, for example, without which he will be unable to make a living. He needs, too, a certain amount of vocational

(Continued on next page)

## IS POPULAR EDUCATION WORTH WHILE?

(Continued from preceding page)

training. Unskilled labour is not only badly paid, but is rapidly becoming obsolete.

The earning of a livelihood, however, is by no means the whole duty of the modern man. Education which is entirely vocational may enable a citizen to provide for himself and his family, but it completely fails to prepare him for his public responsibilities as a member of a great nation. Furthermore, it fails—disastrously—to fit him for the right use of leisure and to enable him to obtain the fullest enjoyment of life.

### The Problem of Leisure

Leisure is a new problem which education alone can attempt to solve. The ordinary man in the twentieth century has the opportunity of enjoying many of the pleasures formerly restricted to a small fraction of the population. The gramophone and the wireless have democratised good music, for example, and the standard of appreciation is rising every year. In a similar way, the enjoyment of the drama is no longer confined to wealthy persons living in large towns and cities; the whole nation has formed the cinema habit and the new style of "theatre-going" attracts millions every week. The educationist may lament the low standard of taste of the general public in literature, drama, music, and in all the arts; but since these are now within the reach of everybody it is obvious that there must be some attempt to educate public taste.

This task of preparing men and women to make the most of life is being eagerly undertaken by the schools. There is a movement for the revival of arts and crafts—woodwork, metal-work, book-binding, weaving, and the many forms of art needlework. Day schools, evening schools, technical and literary institutes, colleges and polytechnics are seriously educating the younger generation for the healthy enjoyment of their leisure hours.

The right of the individual to live a happy as well as a useful life is not only conceded by a wise government; it is deliberately organised through the many agencies of education. And the money spent on the physical, mental and moral well-being of the citizens is an excellent investment. The modern school is a healthy building with abundant provision for fresh air and sunlight; it is provided with a gymnasium and playing fields; physical exercises form part of the normal curriculum, and in many places swimming is taught to all the pupils.

### Education of Defective Children

Defective children receive special and beneficent treatment. In London, for example, there are eight types of school set apart for the unfortunate—for the blind, for the partially blind, for the deaf, for the partially deaf, for the mentally defective, for the physically defective, for the epileptic, and for the tubercular.

The feeding of school children was made possible by the Act of 1906, and medical inspection by the Act of 1907. There is an army of doctors, dentists, and nurses continually at work looking after the physical welfare of the young. It is strange, as the headmaster of Harrow has observed, that for many years education was designed to fit the child, but no attempt was made to fit the child to receive education. For we have only recently realised that a large proportion of the cases of refractoriness and delinquency among children was due to ill-health. The scholar in a modern school is not allowed to suffer the disabilities of bad eyesight, bad teeth, adenoids, and malnutrition.

The result of this wise, but expensive, supervision by the authorities is obvious. Children are taller, heavier, healthier, and far happier than they were twenty years ago. One has only to examine a photograph of a typical class of school children of a generation ago and com-

pare with a typical class to-day to realise the extent of the change.

Some of the most remarkable work has been and is being done by the orthopaedic specialist. Bow legs and knock-knees are disappearing, and will soon be as extinct as rickets. Spinal curvature and flat-footedness are cured completely by remedial exercises in school. Serious diseases are detected in the earliest stages, and in a large percentage of cases the cure is complete.

The organisation of this beneficent work is in the hands of local authorities. Parliament passes its Acts, the Board of Education makes its suggestions, but the spade-work is done by local government. School doctors, dentists and nurses are appointed and paid by the local education authorities. The new Children's Charter will be similarly administered.

### Evening Education

In addition to the work done in the day schools—elementary, secondary, central, technical, and day continuation—the numerous educational activities which take place during the evenings—the commercial, technical and literary institutes, the junior men's institutes, the Polytechnics and others—must be mentioned. The London County Council alone has over 900,000 names in its registers of adolescents and young men and women. Evening education is an asset in consolidating and extending the work done during school years, but it is also of value as a social service. Thanks to these efforts at continuative education the number of juvenile delinquents is being greatly reduced, and to the saving of precious human material must be added the saving in the cost of our prisons and reformatories.

The 10,000 men and women in all parts of the country who give their time and services to local education committees are doing a tremendous work for humanity. Our teachers compare favourably with those of any country in the world. The quality of our education is second to none, and if the progress of the last thirty years is maintained there need be no cause for pessimism about the future. The money spent on the training of the citizens of to-morrow may be difficult to find, but it is the finest national investment the country could make.

### THE FRED MARDEN COT

The ceremony in connection with the endowment of a cot to commemorate the late Mr. Fred Marsden, who died during his year of presidency of the Association, took place on Saturday, May 12, in the board room at the Children's Hospital, Bradford. A number of representatives from the branches attended, and Mr. Sam Lord, immediate past president, was also present.

Mr. W. W. Armitage, in handing over a cheque in the name of the Yorkshire District Committee for the sum of £250, to the treasurer of the hospital, referred to the esteem in which Mr. Marsden was held and to the services he had rendered to his brother officers throughout the country.

Mr. Sam Lord spoke feelingly of Mr. Marsden's personality and work, and referred to the loss which the Association had sustained by his untimely death.

Alderman Longley, secretary-superintendent of the hospital, who had been associated with Mr. Marsden for many years as a member of the Council, mentioned the splendid services which Mr. Marsden had rendered to the City of Bradford and at various times to the Bradford Children's Hospital.

Mrs. Marsden and family were present. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the visitors were escorted round the hospital by Alderman Longley, the Matron and the Assistant Matron.

## OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. J. Chaston, F.C.I.S., F.S.S., Clerk of the Council, Kettering, has been re-elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society of Clerks of U.D.C.'s. Mr. Chaston is a representative of the East Midland District on the National Executive Council of the N.A.L.G.O. and chairman of its Education Committee.

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Mr. Douglas E. S. Turnbull, of the Scottish Eastern Counties Branch, has been elected Burgh Surveyor of Turriff, Aberdeenshire.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. A. Hilton, who for the last forty-three years has been on the staff of the Bolton Corporation, has retired on superannuation and received a present of a grandfather clock with Westminster chimes, from his colleagues in the Borough Treasurer's Department, reports the *Bolton Evening News*. The gift was handed over by the Borough Treasurer Mr. Hilton, who is the son of Mr. W. A. Hilton J.P., spent the first ten years of his municipal service in the Borough Engineer's Department and afterwards transferred to the Treasurer's staff. Until his removal to Blackpool, about ten years ago, he was actively connected with Mawdsley Street Congregational Church and Sunday School and the P.S.A.

\* \* \*

On retiring, after completing thirty-nine years in the service of the Salop County Council, Mr. M. S. Stobbs, Deputy County Surveyor, was the recipient of a presentation from his colleagues in the Shirehall. Mr. W. H. Pendlebury (president of the branch), who presided, presented Mr. Stobbs with a solid silver tea service on behalf of the members of the County Branch and county officers generally. References were made to Mr. Stobbs' long association with the County Council.

\* \* \*

On May 22 a presentation was made to Mr. H. G. Powell, of the Town Clerk's office, Worcester, by the Worcester Branch, to mark the completion of fifty years' service in the City of Worcester. The gift, which took the form of a silver salver and a pair of silver and ebony candlesticks, was handed to Mr. Powell by Dr. Griffin, president of the Worcester Branch.

\* \* \*

Dr. T. W. N. Barlow, ex-Medical Officer of Health of Wallasey, who recently retired after twenty-six years' service, was the recipient of a handsome writing desk presented by the members of the Wallasey Branch as a token of their esteem and of their appreciation of his interest in and efforts for the welfare of the members and of the Association. Mrs. Barlow was also presented with a serviceable nest of tables. Capt. W. H. Fry, Ferries manager, made the presentation. Dr. Barlow's own staff of the Public Health Department presented him with a fine Ferranti radiogram, and Mrs. Barlow with a cut-glass electric table-lamp and loud-speaker extension. The presentation was made by Dr. W. Wrigley Stacey, Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

\* \* \*

We regret to announce the death, which took place suddenly, on May 28, of Mr. Edward Higginson, Librarian-in-Charge, Reference Department, Preston Public Libraries. Mr. Higginson had been a member of the Preston libraries staff since July, 1894, and at one time was departmental representative on the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. Mr. Higginson collapsed and died whilst playing in the local N.A.L.G.O. Bowling Tournament.

\* \* \*

Mr. John H. Eyles, Assistant Internal Auditor, Folkestone, has been appointed to the position of Internal Audit Assistant to the Urban District Council of Epsom.

# POOR LAW TRANSFERRED OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION

CASE OF POUNDER v. LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

**T**HE Court of Appeal (Lords Justices Scrutton, Lawrence, and Greer) has upheld the decision of Mr. Justice Talbot in the case of *Pounder v. London County Council* (1934), on issues of wide applicability, namely, such as arise from the provisions of Section 124 of the Local Government Act, 1929 (19 Geo. 5, Cap. 17) relating to superannuation of Poor Law officers transferred pursuant to the provisions of Section 119 of the Act.

The London County Council succeeded in that case in establishing before the courts their view that their officer, Mr. Pounder, continued to be subject to the provisions of the Poor Law Officer's Superannuation Act, 1896; Mr. Pounder had sought to bring himself within the scope of the (to him) more advantageous provisions of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909, and in the action brought by him sought a declaration to that effect. Lord Justice Scrutton, in dismissing his appeal, expressed considerable sympathy with Mr. Pounder on the situation in which he thus found himself, but it appeared to be a *casus omissus*; he stressed, however, the fact that judges must administer the laws laid down for them, as for the rest of the community, by Parliament, regardless of where their sympathies might lie.

#### Transfer under the 1929 Act

By Section 124 (1) of the 1929 statute it was enacted that where an officer who has paid his annual contributions as required by the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act of 1896 is "transferred" to the service of any council by virtue of the 1929 Act, and his new employers have no superannuation scheme, the 1896 Act is to continue to apply to him, subject to any modifications directed by order of the Minister; and the 1896 Act is to continue so to apply to him "so long as he is in the service of the council of any county or county borough," until such time as there becomes applicable to him a superannuation scheme "not less favourable than that provided by Section 124 (2) (a)," that is to say, until statutory provisions are made for the superannuation of persons employed by the councils of all counties and county boroughs as contemplated by Section 124 (2) (a). No such general provisions had been made.

#### New Service under Contract

Mr. Pounder contended that he had not been "transferred" to the service of the London County Council, but that he had entered their service by a contract made between him and the Council on June 9, 1930, under which contract he became a male nurse at the London County Council's Claybury Asylum, and that, accordingly, he was entitled to the benefits of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909; in other words, that his service should be considered as quite a new one (in a limited sense). For he had originally been employed as a porter by the Dursley Board of Guardians. Under the provisions of Section 119 of the 1929 Act, he was "transferred" to the service of the Gloucestershire County Council, where he continued to be employed as a porter. The Gloucestershire County Council had no superannuation scheme; hence, under the terms of Section 124(1) of the 1929 Act, he continued to be within the scope of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, which had applied to him when he was in the service of the Dursley Board of Guardians.

Mr. Pounder remained in the service of the Gloucestershire County Council from April 1, 1930, until June 8, 1930, when he resigned. He had previously made an application to the

London County Council for a post as male nurse, and he was duly appointed to such a post, the appointment dating from June 9, 1930. About noon on June 9, 1930, he left the quarters provided by the Gloucestershire County Council and travelled to Claybury Asylum; there, he at once began his duties, i.e., at about 4 p.m. on the same day. Upon these facts he claimed that there had been an interval between his employment by the Gloucestershire County Council and his employment by the London County Council, during which interval he was an unemployed man; although that interval, clearly, could not have exceeded twenty-four hours at most. Having, therefore, been an unemployed man immediately prior to his engagement by the London County Council, his argument proceeded, it could not be said that he had been "transferred" to the service of the London County Council under the 1929 Act; he had entered their service as "a free man"—by a contract, and not as a transferred officer.

His argument failed. The 1929 Act specifically declares, by Section 124(1), that the Act of 1896 continues to apply to such a Poor Law officer transferred under the Act, and continues "so to apply to him so long as he is in the service of the council of any county or county borough." In short, the Legislature clearly foresaw and provided for the possibility of a Poor Law officer ceasing to be employed by one council and becoming employed by another council, for the Act here says "the council of any county or county borough," although the legislature did not foresee and provide for the possibility of a porter becoming a male nurse.

#### Interrupted Service

The Court of Appeal stressed the point, in answer to the argument based on the interval when Mr. Pounder was unemployed, that both the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act of 1896 (in this case favoured by the Council), and the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909 (favoured by the plaintiff) allowed for a breach in the continuity of service; two periods of service may be added together to make a superannuation period. Further, neither Act laid it down as a condition that the officer must serve throughout in one capacity only.

\* \* \*

#### Note by the Legal Secretary

Commenting on this case the Legal Secretary of N.A.L.G.O. writes:—

If the Court had agreed with Mr. Pounder's contention that on obtaining the post at the Claybury Asylum he obtained an entirely new appointment and ceased to be subject to the provisions of Section 124(1) of the Act of 1929, he would have become subject to the provisions of the Asylum Officers Superannuation Act, 1909, but for the purposes of the latter Act he would have lost the benefit of his previous service under Poor Law Authorities and the Gloucestershire County Council. It so happened that Mr. Pounder had a very short period of prior service which he was willing to sacrifice for the advantage of coming under the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act as an officer of the first class. As an officer of that class he would be entitled to superannuation calculated on the basis of one fifty-fifth of his salary or wages and emoluments for each complete year of service instead of on the basis of one sixtieth under the Act of 1896. He would also be entitled to retire at an earlier age—under the Act of 1909. But the great majority of transferred Poor Law Officers who, after transfer, would become subject to the Asylum

Officers' Acts of 1909 and 1918, but for the provisions of Section 124(1) of the Act of 1929, would prefer not to come under the former Acts because of losing for superannuation purposes the benefit of their previous service.

It should be borne in mind that comparatively few transferred Poor Law Officers after transfer obtain posts in asylums in which they would be established officers or servants of the first class. The bulk of such transferred officers obtain appointments in certified institutions for defectives, and they are officers in the second class, with the result that their superannuation is calculated on the basis of one sixtieth for each year of service as is the case under the Act of 1896.

A further disadvantage of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act is that it provides for the superannuation to be calculated on the average salary and emoluments for the last ten years' service, instead of on the average for the last 5 years, as in the case of the Act of 1896.

In my view, the decision in Pounder's case is to the advantage of all transferred officers except in a few isolated cases like his.

#### ABERDARE BRANCH DINNER

At the annual dinner of Aberdare Branch, the President of the branch, Mr. W. R. Morgan, M.B.E., Clerk to the Council, presided, and the company included Sir William Jenkins, M.P., Mr. Geo. H. Hall, M.P., Mr. D. J. Parry, M.A., B.Sc., and Alderman B. J. Williams (Mayor of Merthyr). Members of the Merthyr and Mountain Ash Branches were also present. Sir William Jenkins, M.P., congratulated the Association on the wonderful progress made during the past twenty years. Discussing Whitley Councils for the local government service, he said they already had a joint council with the Glamorgan County Council, and it had fully justified its existence. Sir William also dealt with the Hadow Report, which he believed would help considerably to raise the status of local government officers, and in his concluding remarks expressed the hope that in the near future superannuation schemes would be adopted by every local authority.

Mr. D. J. Parry, M.A., B.Sc., Solicitor to the Glamorgan County Council and Honorary Solicitor for Wales of the Association, responding to the toast, thanked Sir William for his tribute. During the evening the President presented to Mr. and Mrs. Scougal a handsome silver tea service. Mr. Scougal has been appointed Treasurer and Accountant to Beckenham Urban District Council. The arrangements for the dinner were carried out by Mr. D. W. Evans, Hon. Secretary; Mr. David Evans, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. W. J. Davies, Nurse Evans and Matron Paddock.

#### WEST RIDING JOINT COUNCIL

At the annual meeting of the West Riding Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services, held at the Town Hall, Leeds, on March 6, Alderman Hamilton Crothers, J.P. (Batley), was elected chairman for the year 1934; Mr. Wm. W. Armitage (chairman, Yorkshire District Committee of N.A.L.G.O.), vice-chairman; Mr. J. H. Broomhead (Borough Treasurer of Brighouse), honorary treasurer; and Mr. William Donnan (Clerk to West Riding Superannuation Joint Committee), secretary.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN POLAND

## OFFICERS' SERVICE CONDITIONS

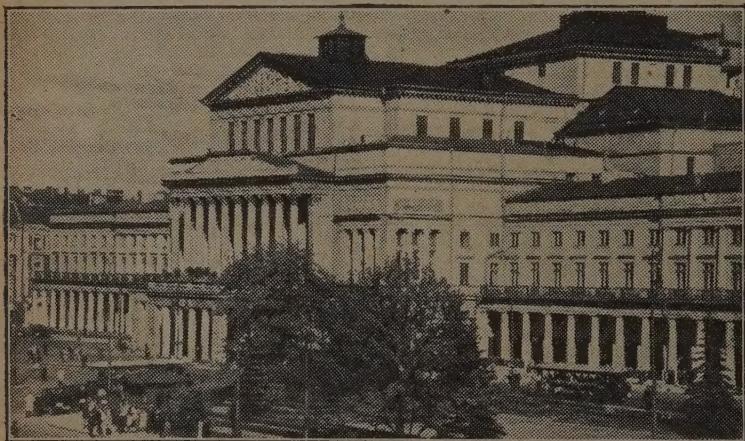
**A**T the request of the editor of the *Municipal Employee*—the official organ of the Polish Association of Municipal Officers and Servants, the General Secretary recently sent the following message in the name of N.A.L.G.O.:—

"The members of the National Association of Local Government Officers send their heartiest greetings and good wishes to their colleagues in Poland, who are engaged in local government administration.

"The work in which we are all engaged unites us in a common endeavour more closely

salaries, however, are regulated by the State, and bear close relation to the salary scales of the civil servants of that country. Superannuation contributions range from 3 to 5 per cent. of the salary, and, after ten years' service, an employee may retire on a superannuation allowance equal to forty per cent. of his salary and for every other year of service, the allowance is increased by 2.4 per cent. so that, after thirty-five years' service, he may retire on an allowance equal to his salary.

The annual holidays are four weeks during the first ten years of service, five weeks up to



WARSAW: The Opera House, a municipal building, reveals some of the finest architecture to be seen in the Capital of Poland.

concerned with the welfare of each country's community than any other influence.

"Local Government officers in all countries should have a fellowship urge towards making our cities beautiful and our public services an achievement of which each and every citizen might be justifiably proud.

"To this end we in this country are working, and to this end we trust that your efforts may be successful."

This message was published in facsimile in the issue of *Municipal Employee* for October 4, 1933, together with details of the Association and its activities. The following letter, dated October 21, 1933, was received from the President and General Secretary of the Polish Association of Municipal Officers and Servants:

"We thank you very much for your message, and we take the liberty of expressing our pleasure that we are now in direct contact with you.

"In the name of the Polish Municipal Officers we send out sincere greetings to our British colleagues. Your message expresses the view which we hold also.

"We have published your message in our official journal, the *Pracownik Miejski*, and it has created great enthusiasm among Polish municipal officers and servants.

"We take the liberty of sending you herewith some information about our organisation for the use of your journal, and shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly exchange your official journal with us.

"With kindest regards,  
R. Krukowski  
General Secretary President."

From the particulars received with this letter it would appear that the service conditions of Polish municipal officers are regulated by the employing authorities, as in this country. Their

twenty years' service, and six weeks thereafter. Service is terminable after three months' notice on either side, but, in some towns, where the local authority desires to terminate the appointment, it may do so only under certain circumstances which are laid down in a Statute of Service. The employees are compulsorily insured in the "Kasa Chorych" (sick office), and some of them may even claim the return of the school fees paid by them in respect of their children.

The Polish Municipal Officers' and Servants' Association is organised into local branches, covering the local authorities, of which there are 225, embracing 14,713 members. Some ninety-five per cent. of the members belong to that class of society known as the "intelligentsia." The Association's official journal is published fortnightly and has a circulation of 13,800.

Recently Mr. Mortimer met the officials and staffs of Kirkcudbrightshire. The meeting was well attended, and a motion to form a branch for the county was unanimously adopted, a small committee being appointed to draw up a constitution. In the meantime, Mr. James Caldew, Chief Assistant in the County Clerk's Department, is to act as secretary.

Burton-upon-Trent Branch held their annual dinner under the chairmanship of their president (Mr. Harry Reading). The annual dance followed and was enjoyed by some three hundred members and friends. A pleasing feature was the striking lighting effects.

In the realm of sport, the branch football team were successful against Stoke City Officers in an away match and later again proved superior in an encounter at Burton.

## LEST WE FORGET

By A CORRESPONDENT

"SEND back this proof to the printers" said the Public Economy Officer, "tell them to print immediately and let me know what time we may expect them to-night."

"Yes, sir." She took the proof from his outstretched hand and walked out silently. After a few minutes she reappeared.

"I have spoken to the printers on the phone, sir. They can let us have the Annual Reports at a quarter past six this evening."

"Thank you, Miss Langley. Give these papers to Mr. Crowther and ask Rogers to come in."

Silence, broken only by the fall of a piece of coal in the fire. A knock on the door; Rogers walked in. He waited several seconds before the chief official looked up from his papers.

"Ah! Rogers. The printers have promised delivery of the Annual Reports at a quarter past six. Get two typists on the envelopes and you stay to-night and see them posted. I'll make you responsible for them; do you good, a little responsibility."

"But sir," replied Rogers, "it's three o'clock now and there are more than eight hundred on our Annual Report list. It'll take at least until half-past seven. If they went by the midday post to-morrow all the local ones would be delivered in the afternoon. Can't they wait until the morning?"

"Don't argue with me, Rogers. It is most important that they go to-night. Last year they went out at the beginning of the month. We're three weeks late this year. And a little hard work won't hurt you. I had to do it when I was a boy, not once only but every night until eight o'clock."

"Nothing but overtime and more overtime," complained Rogers in the General Office afterwards. "Eight o'clock last week preparing for the auditors, and now when there's a chance of leaving promptly for once I have to see that the Annual Reports are sent off correctly. We're being efficient if they go to-night instead of to-morrow morning. Because he worked late when he was young there's no reason why he should make his staff do the same. If ever I'm boss I'll see that none of my staff works overtime."

♦ ♦ ♦

Half-past four one afternoon ten years later. Rogers, now Public Economy Officer for Middington, lays down his pen and rings for Palmer.

"Palmer, I want to speak to you. As you know Miss Dark is leaving at the end of the month, and I want you to take over the accounts and the salaries register. It's an added responsibility for you my boy, and responsibility's good for anyone."

"But sir, I've got too much to do  
(Continued at foot of col. 1, page 561)

## NALGO MEMBER AS AUTHOR

A careful sifting of the mass of historical data associated with the Thames is well blended with useful topographical detail in "The Romance of London River," by A. G. Thompson (Bradley and Son, Ltd., 1s.). The author is a member of N.A.L.G.O. It is remarkable how much material is woven into the brief span of less than 100 pages of easily-readable type. Thus we find Kew Gardens in six lines described as well as many people could do in twice that number. Appropriate poetical extracts add to the attractiveness of the book, and the adroitness with which the salient points are depicted in sketch form is commendable.—H. W.

## LECTURES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

A course of lectures primarily intended for officers engaged in the work of school attendance departments in the Midlands and Wales has been arranged by the Association of Superintendents of School Attendance Departments. The venue is Saltley Training College, and the course will be from Wednesday, July 4, to Friday, July 6. Applications may, however, be considered from officers outside the area stated. Should the course prove successful, it is hoped to organise similar ones in other parts of the country.

## TOWARDS CENTRALISED CONTROL?

"We are gradually heading (it may take many years before we arrive there) towards governmental or at any rate centralised control: our service will eventually resemble in many ways the Civil Service. The motive underlying this drift is a conscious one, sponsored in main by the policy of the National Association of Local Government Officers, and in part by the higher authorities themselves, who are becoming more conscious of our aggregate value. This last year a distinct forward movement has taken place which is for our ultimate good."—*The Guildman*, Organ of the Leeds Municipal Officers' Guild.

## HARROGATE SALARIES

The report presented to the Harrogate and District Branch annual meeting stated that, with regard to salary deductions, the Executive Committee had obtained an interview with council representatives and put the officials' case for restoration. Entertainments and sports activities during the year included the annual whisky drive and dance, attended by nearly 400 officials, wives, and friends. The most recent venture of the branch was the dramatic society which gave a talented presentation of "Husbands are a Problem." The annual meeting placed on record its gratitude and thanks to Mr. A. G. Bolton who, earlier in the year, resigned from the position of honorary secretary, an office he had occupied for twelve years.

## LEST WE FORGET

(Continued from preceding page)

already. I've been doing Canning's work for two months and he hasn't been replaced yet. I've been here until seven o'clock nearly every night since he left and. . . ."

Rogers cut him short.

"Do you good, do you good. Work till seven o'clock won't hurt you. I had to do so when I was your age. . . ."

# DISTRICT COMMITTEES

## WEST MIDLAND DISTRICT

Mr. G. A. Stone (N.E.C.) presided over a representative attendance when the Committee met on May 12 in the Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham.

Representatives of the Burton-upon-Trent and Stoke-on-Trent Branches reported on the position as regards superannuation under their authorities. The termination of the temporary salary reductions by the Wednesbury Corporation was reported by a representative of that Branch.

The Committee decided to distribute the sum of 25 guineas allocated to them from the proceeds of the sale of "Help Yourself" Annuals to the following five voluntary hospitals: Haywood Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent; Worcester Royal Infirmary; Coventry and Warwick General Hospital; Hereford General Hospital; and West Bromwich and District Hospital.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Presiding Officer (Mr. G. A. Owen, Smethwick) and scrutineers in connection with the recent N.E.C. election.

It was decided to refer to the Executive Committee the question of appointing a Secretary of the Nalgo Motoring Association for the district.

Reports were received from Mr. G. A. Stone, Mr. H. N. Schrader (Hon. Sports Secretary), and the Divisional Secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to the principal business of the meeting, which was the consideration of the Conference Agenda.

## NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT

A largely attended meeting of the North-Eastern District Committee was held at the Town Hall, Sunderland, on Saturday, May 5, Mr. R. E. Heron presiding.

The Mayor (Councillor E. W. Ditchburn) welcomed the Committee and commended the work of the Association generally. "The influence of the Association with local authorities is stronger than ever," said Councillor Ditchburn, and he congratulated the Association on having attained a membership of 75,000.

The Town Clerk (Mr. G. S. McIntire) associated himself with the welcome extended by the Mayor, and stressed the value of Whitleyism to the Local Government Service. He pointed out that the opportunity it gives for employers and employees to get together and discuss any troubles which may arise is one which is bound to have an advantage for everybody concerned.

On the question of Whitleyism, the Executive Committee reported that representatives of the North-Eastern District Committee had met representatives of the Yorkshire District Committee at York, on March 31, as to the definition of areas of Provincial Whitley Councils. It was agreed by both Committees that branches in the Cleveland District should form part of the North-Eastern Provincial Council, when constituted.

It was reported that a cheque for the sum of £26 5s. had been received, being part of the proceeds of the sales of the "Help Yourself" journal, and that an allocation would be made to various hospitals within the area, and a report thereon made to the next meeting of the District Committee.

On the question of superannuation, the Divisional Secretary reported that the Blyth Borough Council and the Saltburn U.D.C. had agreed to obtain an actuarial report; that Middlesbrough had obtained such report and had the matter under consideration; that West Hartlepool had supplied data for a revised report; and that the Thornaby Town Council had adopted the 1922 Act.

A statement was issued showing the amounts contributed by the various branches during the year 1933 to the B. and O. Fund. The winners of the Shield were Wallsend, with an average

contribution per member of 11s. 5d. Six branches had contributed over 5s. per head of membership. Newcastle had made the highest aggregate contribution with £194 13s. 11d., South Shields being the next with £85 17s. 5d., giving an average of 8s. 4d. per member for Newcastle.

The total amount contributed during 1933 amounted to £870 1s. 1d., being £41 10s. 8d. over the previous year.

A final statement showing the action taken by local authorities in connection with the economy "cuts" was circulated, and it was indicated that nearly all the local authorities in the area had either made no "cuts" at all or had terminated them.

Mr. R. Doxford, Chairman of the Sports Committee, reported on the large number of sports events which it had been decided to organise during the coming summer.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the District Committee in September at Redcar.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the representatives partook of tea at Meng's Restaurant.

## YORKSHIRE DISTRICT

A meeting of the Yorkshire District Committee was held in the Council Chamber Bradford, on Saturday, May 12, Mr. W. W. Armitage presiding.

It was reported that the National Executive Council had authorised retention by the East Riding County Officers' Branch of 40 per cent. rebate from subscriptions as from November 1 last.

The "Summary of Conclusions" of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Qualification, Recruitment, etc., of Local Government Officers, together with the recommendations and suggested policy of the National Executive Council, had been examined by the Executive Committee of the District paragraph by paragraph, and certain amendments had been suggested.

The agenda for the annual conference was gone through and a number of decisions taken.

It was agreed that grants be made to Whitby and Skipton Branches to enable them to send a representative to conference.

Mr. W. E. Laughton introduced the minutes of the Sports Committee, and referred to the inter-district football match (Yorkshire v. North-Western Districts), which was played at Sheffield, and which resulted in a victory for the North-Western District by two goals to nil.

The Divisional Secretary reported the result of Branch contributions to the B. and O. Fund during the year 1933, the aggregate amounting to £1,592 1s. 11d. The Branch with the highest contribution per head of membership was Settle with £1 0s. 1½d., this branch thus winning the Yorkshire District Challenge Shield for the second year in succession.

Since the last meeting the following authorities have adopted the Superannuation Act: York C.B., Morley B., Honley U.D.C. as from April 1, 1934; Pontefract B. and Doncaster C.B. as from July 1, 1934. The Barnoldswick U.D.C. have agreed to obtain an actuarial report.

It was also mentioned that the Mexborough U.D.C. had decided to adopt the West Riding Joint Council's scale of salaries up to a maximum of £300 per annum, and that Castleford U.D.C. had adopted the scales with modifications up to the age of 27. The modifications introduced were not regarded as satisfactory by the staff.

Mr. H. Allen reported on the proceedings of the last meeting of the West Riding Joint Council, and Mr. E. Ratcliffe briefly referred to the business which had been done by the Regional B. and O. Committee.

The Bradford Branch kindly entertained the representatives to tea at the Mechanics' Institute, and they were heartily thanked for their hospitality.

# AT RANDOM

A COMMENTARY ON CURRENT EVENTS

By HYPERION

## The Best Side

**S**AMBO happened to be in a town in Ohio on election day. In the afternoon an acquaintance met him.

"Has you voted, Sambo?" he asked.

"Yassir, I's voted."

"How did you vote?"

"Well, boss, it was dis way. I meets a Republican in th' street an' he gibs me 'leven dollars to vote for his man. An' I meets a Democrat an' he gibs me seven dollars to vote for his man. So I voted for th' Democrat."

"But the Republican gave you the most money."

"Yassir, dat's just th' pint. I voted for dem Democrats because dey was least corrupt."

## Source of Progress

Dean Inge's lecture on "Liberty and Natural Rights," delivered at Oxford on May 9, has deservedly received wide publicity. It is a penetrative analysis of world conditions. In one sentence, which has been widely quoted, the Dean of St. Paul's stated: "It would take many centuries of Bolshevism to eliminate from our species that desire to live beyond our incomes which has made us what we are."

Dean Inge, however, does not acknowledge his debt for the epigrammatic turn of this sentence to Samuel Butler. It was he who said, many years ago, that the source of all progress was the desire to live beyond one's income!

## Rhymes of the Times

but toujours gai  
is my motto kid  
the devil's to pay  
but toujours gai  
and once in a way  
let's lift the lid  
but toujours gai  
is my motto kid

This is an extract from a most entertaining book called 'archy and mehitabel' which is not so well-known as it deserves to be in this country. It is by an American writer, one Don Marquis, and contains the entertaining reflections of archy, a cockroach and mehitabel, a cat, warty bliggins, a toad, and other creatures, all of whom "come alive" just as much as any creature in "Uncle Remus."

Here is another maxim of archy:

don't cuss the climate  
it probably doesn't like you  
any better  
than you like it

The book contains no capital letters or punctuation marks—in that respect it is very James Joycean—but it is one of the most entertaining books I have read for a long time.

Messrs. Faber & Faber have recently published a sequel to this book, called "archy's life of mehitabel" at the very reasonable price of 5s.

Unlike most sequels, this book is just as good, if not better, than its predecessor. The ingenious accounts of mehitabel's numerous love affairs alternate with archy's speculations on philosophy and metaphysics, as viewed by a denizen in the insect world.

I must content myself by giving one example of the latter:

"as far as government is concerned  
men after thousands of years practice  
are not as well organized socially  
as the average ant hill or beehive  
they cannot build dwellings  
as beautiful as a spiders' web  
and i never saw a city  
full of men manage to be as happy  
as a congregation of mosquitoes  
who have discovered a fat man  
on a camping picnic."

But mehitabel really dominates the whole book and well may Gerald Gould say that mehitabel is the only cat he has ever really loved.

## "Lady Macbeth" Modernised

The following is an amusing essay written by an Egyptian student in an examination for a teaching diploma at the High Training College at Cairo. It was written for Robert Graves, the author of "Goodbye to All That," when he was Professor of English at Cairo:

"Sir, to write shortly, Lady Macbeth was brave and venturesome; but she had no tact. She says to Macbeth: 'Now the opportunity creates itself, lose it not. Where is your manhood in these suitable circumstances? I have children, and I know the love of a mother's heart. But you must know I would dash the child's head and drive away the boneless teeth which are milking me rather than to give a promise and then leave it.'

"Macbeth says: 'But we may fail.'

"'Fail?' says Lady Macbeth, 'but stick to the point and we will not fail. Leave the rest to me. I shall put drugs in the grooms' drink and we shall accuse them.'

"Macbeth says: 'You are fit to lay men children only.'

"The impression on the reader becomes very great and feels with anger."

## Stories of Statesmen

### (1) Bismarck and Disraeli.

"Stories of the old rivals," writes the *Daily Telegraph*, "Bismarck and Disraeli, have been revived in Paris by the production of a new musical comedy in which Bismarck is a leading character.

Bismarck is reputed to have been asked by Disraeli, when he was receiving him: "How do you manage to get rid of unwelcome visitors?"

"Nothing is more simple," Bismarck replied. "When my wife thinks people have wasted enough of my time, she tells my valet to come and inform me that the Emperor wishes to see me immediately. That always works admirably."

At that moment there was a knock at the door, and Bismarck's valet entered the room. "His Majesty wishes to speak to your Highness," he announced.

### (2) Palmerston.

The gentleman who writes to *The Times* to complain of the peril of the pins with which new-bought shirts are displayed to the best advantage has, no doubt, repeated the experience of Lord Palmerston. That statesman, probably as impetuous at the desk as in foreign policy, once pricked his fingers in opening a bundle of papers fastened together with a pin. He at once issued a decree. "I desire that all the pins in this office be immediately made over to the female branch of the establishment."

## Nonsense Verse.

The English language has always held a pre-eminent position, not only in respect of lyrical poetry, but in respect of nonsense verse. When, in 1846, Edward Lear collected the verses which he had written at Knowsley for the Earl of Derby's grandchildren, he little knew that he had discovered a mine of inspiration which had been sorely neglected and which was destined to yield amusing and interesting products.

In the preface of the third edition of the "Book of Nonsense," he explained that the first idea of writing geographical limericks was suggested to him by a friend who drew his attention to the nursery rhyme. "There was an old man of Tobago." The connection between modern and old nonsense poetry is thus established. It is to the nursery rhyme that we owe the nonsense songs, and, if it had not been

for this "Old man of Tobago," mankind would have been deprived of thousands and thousands of old and young men and old and young ladies hailing from all corners of the earth from Peru to Norway.

You remember the Khartoum limerick:—  
There was an old man of Khartoum,  
Who kept two black sheep in his room;  
"You remind me," he said,  
"Of two friends who are dead,"  
But he would never tell us of whom.

Personally, I like the type of nursery rhyme in which the poet is so carried away by his inspiration that he does not even trouble to find new sounds to suit his rhyme, but distorts certain words in order to give them their proper rhyming. For example, G. K. C.'s short verse on "The Song of the Quodole":—

And Quodole here discloses  
All things that Quodole can,  
They haven't got no noses  
They haven't got no noses  
And goodness only knows

The Noselessness of Man.

Mr. A. A. Milne takes even greater liberties with the English language in his "Three Foxes," in which we find a whole verse built on fanciful rhymes:—

They didn't go shopping in the High Street  
shops,  
But caught what they wanted in the woods  
and copses;  
They all went fishing, and they caught three  
worms,  
They went out hunting and they caught three  
wopses.

## Extracts from Tchekhov's Notebooks

Love? In love? Never! I am a Government Clerk.

A Government official began to live an original life: a very tall chimney on his house, green trousers, blue waistcoat, a dyed dog, dinner at midnight; after a week he gave it up.

We fret ourselves to reform life, in order that posterity may be happy, and posterity will say as usual: "In the past it used to be better, the present is worse than the past."

## Experiments in Government

There has been a spate of books during the last few years on Russia and the Five Years Plan—Maurice Hindus' "Red Bread" and "Humanity Uprooted," "The Five Years Plan" by an American called Knickerbocker, and other accounts of visits to Russia by Julian Huxley and Dorothy Thompson, who, by the way, is Mrs. Sinclair Lewis, are some of the best known. But they are all out of date about six months after they have been published. Nevertheless, they are intensely interesting as records of the various stages of the Russian experiment. The most recent book on Russia which I have read is "Modern Russia, as seen by an Englishwoman," by Cecily Hamilton, which is an interesting and comprehensive book in which the author has succeeded in giving a free and unbiased account of present conditions in Russia. Her comments on the reaction against drabness and the interest in foreign clothes, the passion for education, the prevalence of suspicion, the survival of the pre-war theatre and its influence, and various aspects of the younger generation are particularly interesting. Miss Hamilton also tries to convey the effect, actual and probable, of the complete intellectual isolation of the Russian people, their aloofness from the rest of the world, and their strange ideas concerning it.

Soon, I expect, there will be an equally large number of books issuing forth from the press about the Hitler régime in Germany and the Roosevelt régime in the U.S.A.; I hear that

## MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Dr. Frank Asker, Todmorden, to Medical Officer under the Rowley Regis Council.

G. Allen, Wakefield, to Assistant Sanitary Inspector under the Doncaster Council.

E. V. Finnigan, Sunderland, to Town Clerk under the Morley Borough Council.

R. Gospel, North Riding C.O. Branch, to Assistant Clerk at Ransom Sanatorium under the Notts. C.C.

H. Ling, West Riding C.O. Branch, to an appointment in the Health Department under the Batley Council.

E. Myers, Dewsbury, to Deputy Accountant under the Southend-on-Sea Council.

B. T. W. Stevenson, Sheffield, to Chief Librarian under the Southport Council.

A. E. Turner, Blyth, to Chief Librarian and Curator under the Kidderminster Borough Council.

H. R. B. Wood, Middlesbrough, to Director of Education under the Crewe Council.

C. W. Yeadon, West Riding C.O. Branch, to Collector under the North Riding C.C.

E. E. Lewis, Coventry, to School Dentist, Guildford B.

Dr. C. Cookson, Smethwick, to M.O.H., Gloucester.

Dr. R. B. Berry, Gloucester, to M.O.H., Wallasey.

A. L. Hutchinson, Barking, to Assistant for Higher and Technical Education, Kent.

F. W. Sewell, Isle of Thanet, to Rating Officer, Barton-upon-Irwell Assessment Committee.

### THE GENERAL SECRETARY ON RECRUITMENT

Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary, responding to the toast, "The Public Services," at the inaugural luncheon of the Public Services Scholastic Alliance, at the Hotel Great Central, Marylebone, took the opportunity of thanking Sir Henry Hadow, G.B.E., who presided, for his work in connection with the recent report on Local Government. "The Civil Service," he said, "has had for a very long time a recognised standard of recruitment and system of recruitment which the local government service in this country has lacked. It is remarkable that its efficiency is so high. A reference to its growth in the last twenty-five or thirty years does clearly indicate that the work of the local authority of the future demands something in the nature of better-planned organisation as regards the standard of recruitment of the local government officer."

Alderman Sir Thomas Keens, who proposed the toast, said that thirty-four years' membership of a county council had filled him with admiration. Mr. G. L. Pepler, of the Ministry of Health, responded on behalf of the Civil Service. Sir Bruce Porter, K.B.E., proposed the toast of the "Public Services Scholastic Alliance," to which the president, Sir Henry Hadow, replied.

### AT RANDOM

(Continued from page 562)

Dr. Finer, who is well known to many local government officers through his recent book on local government, is now engaged on writing an account of what Mussolini has achieved in Italy.

I wonder what philosopher-historian of the future will make it his task to collate and compare all these divers experiments in government in the modern world.

\* \* \*

From a Letter in "The Listener":—

"Police and prisons are largely mere substitutes for economic justice, and criminal statistics merely register our social neglect. We have to govern persons because we refuse to administer things. We seem to have discovered that, in the short run, 'punishment' is cheaper than 'justice.'"



## New Business . . . 1932

Life	-	£199,980
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## New Business . . . 1933

Life	-	£234,650
Fire	-	£933,288

## New Business First 4 Months . 1933

Life	-	£82,659
Fire	-	£244,087

## New Business First 4 Months . 1934

Life	-	£113,311
Fire	-	£357,778

# NALGO LIFE & FIRE

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# NOTES FOR READERS



By JONAS PRAPS

**P**HILIP ALLINGHAM'S "Cheapjack" (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.) is an entertaining story of a young man's experiences in earning an existence on market places and on fair-grounds. He is of good family, but a failure educationally. With a penchant for fortune-telling he sets out on his travels to various fairs, makes friends with the gypsies, and has a variety of adventures. The reader is introduced to the mysteries of the "tick-off," "the stinker," "grafting," "working the spread," and other of the intricate ways of abstracting money from the fair-going public, likewise some quaint and curious characters.

#### Robert the Bruce

A stirring account of a national movement will be found in Eric Linklater's "Robert the Bruce" (Davies, 5s.). Mr. Linklater's pen is as facile in historical biography as in fiction and it is significant of his power in character-painting that he evokes an Englishman's sympathies with the Scottish national hero. He does not gloss over Bruce's faults and is impartial in his praise or censure. The last chapter in the book is an excellent epitome of Bruce's character, gifts, statesmanship, and zeal for his country's cause.

M. R. Hopkinson has added yet another to the imposing number of excellent biographies of the seventeenth and eighteenth century national leaders in "Anne of England" (Constable, 12s. 6d.). His view is that historians with Whig and Jacobite leanings have deliberately belittled her skill and wisdom as a ruler of England. She contributed very much more to history than a style in architecture. The picture he gives of her character and statesmanship is supported by extracts from the diaries and correspondence of many contemporaries, and it is by no means the usual one of her as a weak monarch over-shadowed by Marlborough and his wife and others of her court. Her desire for peace, her "dislike of extreme party politics" and her moderation would be liable to be interpreted by place and power-seekers as weakness. There are very few dull passages in the book.

#### In the Near East

"Fusilier Bluff, the experiences of an unprofessional soldier in the Near East, 1918 to 1919" (Bles, 8s. 6d.), is hardly a war book, though it deals with the latter days of the Great War in Macedonia, the Dardanelles, and Constantinople. It is said to be by a well-known writer. There is nothing, or very little, of the horrible side of war, but some caustic comments on events in the field in which the writer served. Viewing the ruins of the Roman acropolis, he says: "I thank God that I was able to look upon these ruins without any archaeological or scholastic obsession." This sentence is typical of the calmly critical unperturbed manner in which he recounts his experiences of the War, and later on diplomatic service in the Caucasus, based upon his diary.

It would, perhaps, be fairer to see the play "Without Witness," by Anthony Armstrong and Harold Simpson (Gollancz, 5s.), before criticising it in book form. It is certainly well written, but the plot is rather thin, largely hanging upon the position of a glass. The dénouement would be more interesting on the stage than in the written form.

Mr. Vincent Starret is an enthusiast in all that relates to Mr. Sherlock Holmes. He has collected hundreds of books, pamphlets, articles, burlesques, etc., relating to Doyle's famous character, and in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (Ivor Nicholson, 8s. 6d.) tells us much of Dr. Joseph Bell—the Holmes original—or of "Dr. Watson," 221B, Baker Street, and other things associated with the famous criminal investigator. The writer is old enough to remember the furore which arose in the literary world when "Holmes" disappeared over the edge of the cliff and was "killed." Sherlock is still popular and his admirers will be glad of this book.

"Storm Music," by Dornford Yates (Hodder, 7s. 6d.), is a story of a modern knight errant, a murder, a damsel in distress, and Austria as the background. Around this setting Mr. Yates weaves an interesting yarn.

Miss Mary McGill, who is on the staff of the Manchester Public Libraries, has published an interesting story of the reign of Edward III in "The Young Men Dream" (Heritage, 7s. 6d.). The story is well told and discloses a considerable amount of research in the historic details.

#### SECRETARIAL PRACTICE

"Secretarial Practice of Public Service Companies," by E. G. Janes, A.C.I.S. (Pitman, 10s. 6d. net), is a complete reference to all branches of the work of a statutory company secretary. The volume gives a particularly detailed treatment of the many problems that arise. It is invaluable as a reference work for the secretary and registrar, and all engaged in the statutory company secretarial office, and is an important textbook for the student preparing for the relative professional examinations. Where possible, references to the Companies Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1845 to 1889, and their practical application to the administration of a public utility supply company, are incorporated. The author has commented on the obsolete clauses and has suggested improvements whereby procedure may be organised on up-to-date practical lines.

The book is a complete guide for the registrar; it includes a special chapter on the issue of stock or shares, with the relative forms, and deals very fully with the various meetings to be held, the procedure thereat, and the keeping of minutes. A complete mechanized system for dealing with dividend work is described, together with the course to be adopted in obtaining the co-operation of the principal banks. A feature of particular interest is the insight that is given into the promotion and preparation of Parliamentary Bills, provisional and special orders. The requirements of the standing orders of Parliament, from the time the Bill is prepared to the ultimate granting of the Royal Assent, have been carefully dealt with so as to facilitate practical application.

The treatment of statistical work is confined to bare essentials, and all illustrations of specimen forms are of a relevant nature. The appendices include complete copies of the Companies Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1863 to 1889, and also a useful extract from the Rules of the Stock Exchange.

## RECENT NOVELS

#### The Zaddn Street Affair

A woman's body, clad in a cheap dress covered again with a rich silk robe of Eastern make; a death wound inflicted with a dagger of strange pattern, and the body, bound on planks and trestle, bearing upon it a painted design of mystifying subtlety: these are the opening surprises of a vivid romance called "The Zaddn Street Affair" (Sampson Low, 7s. 6d. net.). How the tangle works out is, of course, not ours to tell, but that the whole business is thrilling and eerie in every respect, there can be no doubt. It is written in a style that seems to suggest authorship in, shall we say, more serious vein and, at least, "Wallace Jackson" is a startling newcomer to the world of fiction. Let there be more from the same pen, in any event.

#### The Outlaw Sheriff

Among the half-dozen (or is it four?) original stories in the world, not the least interesting is that which turns villain into hero with success and satisfaction to all. Hal Dunning certainly has achieved this in his new novel "The Outlaw Sheriff" (Ward, Lock, 3s. 6d. net.). That is to say he makes Jim-twin Allen, otherwise White Wolf, a branded rebel, take up the business of administering law and order when brother Jack, the legally appointed Sheriff, is laid aside with illness. It is a rattling good Wild West yarn, with murders and all the rest as should be and particularly a catch in two lean grey "hosses" that knew how Jim would "blaze the trail." Two ladies, also, Ma and Mary Ann are "in the limelight" and their appearance is welcome.

#### Crumpled Lilies

Whether the "Lilies" which Mr. John Christopher Wallington found so extraordinarily "Crumpled" were thus ordained to be is a matter which admirers of Carlton Dawe's novels will certainly wish to know. Because "Leathermouth" is here again in action and the remembrance of that effective story comes fresh again at any passing mention of it. "Crumpled Lilies" (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d. net) makes a good start with "Two Charming Ladies," so described. Wallington gets into contact, and soon a pretty funny thing reveals herself in the generous terms of blackmail. Mr. Wally is not quite fool enough for that and declines the blandishment. He is promptly kidnapped and the story of his rescue makes the latter part of a romantic theme, with excitement *in excelsis*. We have yellow taxi-cabs, limelight, and love-light. At well nigh the last chapter we are still "learning more about women," and in the very final word comes this admonition, as one man to another: "Don't let us ever think again we know anything about them." The female interest indeed is very effective in this, Mr. Dawe's delightful new book.

#### SCENES FROM A MUSICAL PLAY

Something quite novel to the gramophone industry is the preparation by the "His Master's Voice" Company of an album of records, each constituting a scene from a musical play—*Conversation Piece*. On the first record of the series is the waltz "I'll Follow My Secret Heart," perfectly rendered by Yvonne Printemps and Noel Coward. After the first night of the show all the theatrical critics prophesied that this song would be the biggest musical success of the season. Heather Thatcher, Moya Nugent and Maidie Andrews sing "Charming, Charming" and "Dear Little Soldiers" with Yvonne Printemps. In keeping with the title, *Conversation Piece*, the listener is acquainted with the action by the words preceding each song, spoken by the artistes in the same way as they do on the stage.



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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

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## HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted from headquarters to branches:—

JUNE.

*Circular No. 47/Gen./1934. (To local correspondents of the Approved Society.)*

Concerning acceptance into membership of officers who are only engaged temporarily in the local government service.

\* \* \*

JUNE 18.

*Circular No. 48/Gen./1934.*

Giving information regarding next year's local government centenary and having particular regard to the centenary cruise.

*Circular No. 49/Gen./1934.*

Enclosing a copy of an article, "A Century of Pauperism" and stating that further copies are available.

\* \* \*

JUNE.

*Circular No. 50/A.S./1934. (To local correspondents of the Approved Society.)*

(a) Enclosing contribution cards for the 23/4 period, together with lists and expenses forms.

(b) Requesting return of cards which, for some reason, cannot be delivered to the members concerned.

(c) Giving information relating to the position of "Free Period" members.

(d) Concerning record cards.

(e) Requesting correct completion of panel medical certificates before such certificates are sent to headquarters.

\* \* \*

MAY 31.

*Circular No. 51/1934. (To local correspondents of Logosia.)*

Enclosing copy of a communication regarding burglary insurance and setting out form for requisitioning further copies.

\* \* \*

JUNE 16.

*Circular No. 52/1934.*

(a) Concerning the purchase of clothing made in the Association's colours.

(b) Stating that accommodation is available for a few more students at the Summer School, Cambridge, and requesting prompt enrolment.

\* \* \*

JUNE 18.

*Circular No. 53/Gen./1934.*

Requesting the co-operation of branches in clearing the stock of pamphlets and booklets which have been issued to the Press from time to time.

*Circular No. 54/Gen./1934.*

(a) Requesting a special effort by branches on behalf of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

(b) Regarding the appointment of women representatives on local executive committees.

*Circular No. 55/1934.*

Giving details of accommodation available at the Croyde Bay Holiday Centre and requesting prompt booking.

## A SUCCESSFUL DEFENCE

A case which aroused a great deal of interest came before the Hexham Petty Sessional Bench on June 5, when the Master and Matron of the Poor Law Institution, Hexham (Mr. and Mrs. Thirlwell), appeared in answer to summonses issued against them at the instance of the police in respect of the death of a child, who was burnt owing, it was alleged, to inadequate protection being provided by a fire-guard.

The Northumberland Branch of the Association, of which Mr. and Mrs. Thirlwell are members, were approached, and on their recommendation a solicitor and junior counsel were engaged to protect the interests of the Master and Matron. After a long hearing, the case was dismissed.

This is another illustration (if such be needed in these days) of the imperative necessity of every officer being a member of the Association. At a moment's notice the Master and Matron of the Hexham Institution were called upon to defend themselves against a very serious charge, which was taken against them under the Children Act, 1933. In this instance the Master and Matron were able to hand the case over to the Association, who relieved them of any further responsibility and piloted it to a successful issue.

## COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: January, 42; February, 41; March, 40; April, 39; May, 37; June, 38. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:

	APL	MAY	JUNE
Food ..	18	16	17
Rent ..	56	56	56
Clothing ..	85	85	90
Fuel and light ..	75	70	70
Other items ..	75	75	75

## BOOTS LIBRARY SERVICE

Members who have joined Boots Library Service are reminded that their subscriptions will expire on August 1, when it will be necessary to renew the subscription. Those members who do not desire to continue the service should return their membership tokens and outstanding volumes immediately after the date of expiration. Any subscriber detaining the property of the library beyond the period subscribed for will be charged for such detention. Hitherto such fees have been charged at the rate of 1s. 3d. per month or part thereof in the case of class "A," and 5d. per month or part thereof in the case of class "B" subscribers. In future detention fees will be charged at the usual subscription rate, as set forth in the prospectus for the number of days books are retained beyond the expiry date.

## IMPORTANT DATES

June 30 to July 6.—Summer School at Newnham College, Cambridge.

July 14.—A.M. Meeting of the Standing Joint Committee.

July 14.—P.M. Meeting of the National Executive Council.

July 31.—Third quarterly return from Branches of alterations in Register of Membership.

## NEW BRANCHES

Branches of the Association have been formed at Thorne (Yorks), consisting of the officers of the Thorne Rural District Council, and at Pudsey Borough, with a commencing membership of 18 and 25 respectively.

## SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

### NOTES BY THE ORGANISING SECRETARY

#### SALARY DEDUCTIONS

The following changes have been notified since the last issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE:—

*Deductions Terminated.*—County Councils of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire; County Borough Councils of Bournemouth and Gateshead; Borough Councils of Jarrow and Stamford; Urban District Council of Friern Barnet; Rural District Councils of Easington and Lanchester.

*Deductions Modified.*—Urban District Council of Coulsdon and Purley.

The position in Scotland is dealt with under "Scottish News" on another page.

#### SALARIES

The Library Association has adopted the N.A.L.G.O. scale and has prepared proposals regarding its application to library staffs.

An interview has taken place between the Estimates Sub-Committee at Bradford and the Divisional Secretary, with regard to the reparation of the temporary reductions in salaries. It has already been reported that a partial reparation has been made, but a very strong case was presented to the Committee for complete reparation to the whole of the members of the staff affected.

The Divisional Secretary has interviewed the Newburn U.D.C. and made application for the National Scale of Salaries to be adopted. At the time of writing, the matter is still under the consideration of the Council.

An application has been made to the Normanton Urban District Council for the adoption of the West Riding Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Technical, and Clerical Services scales of salaries.

#### SUPERANNUATION

To the secretaries of branches in England and Wales covering county, county borough, and borough councils that have not yet adopted a superannuation scheme there was addressed a letter on June 5, giving details of the general position and enclosing a list showing the local authorities with, and those without, schemes as at April 30, 1934.

The following is a summary of the list:—

	With Schemes	Without Schemes
County councils ..	47	15
County boroughs ..	64	19
Met. boroughs and City of London ..	29	—
Boroughs ..	126	147
Urban Districts ..	287	466
Rural districts ..	229	379
Other authorities ..	181	Unknown

Subsequent information shows that the names of the following authorities can be added as having adopted superannuation:—

Doncaster C.B. as from 1/7/34.  
Fulham U.D.C. as from 1/4/34 (and workmen).

Hounslow U.D.C. as from 1/4/34.  
Mansfield-Woodhouse U.D.C. as from 1/7/34.

West Bridgford U.D.C. as from 1/7/34.  
Basford R.D.C. as from 1/7/34 (modified scheme).

Sturminster R.D.C. as from 1/10/34.  
Worksop R.D.C. as from 1/7/34.

The fifteen county councils without schemes are Anglesey, Bedfordshire, Brecknockshire, Caernarvonshire, Cardiganshire, Huntingdonshire, Holland (Lincs), Kesteven (Lincs), Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire, Selside of Peterborough, Pembrokeshire, Radnorshire, Rutland, Westmorland.

Bedfordshire seems likely to adopt a scheme in the near future to which the minor authorities in the county can be admitted.

The Westmorland County Council has

(Continued on page 569)

## Local Government Service

*Editorial and Advertisement Offices,  
3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London,  
W.C.2.*

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

*Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.*

*Autoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.*

*Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.*

*All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.*

## THE B. & O. FUND

THE Scarborough Conference gave in definite, clear and unmistakable terms its unanimous opinion that there must be no suggestion of regulation, of regimentation or of limitation to the amount of assistance which should be rendered to the beneficiaries of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund; nor would it accept the principle contained in the proposals of the Management Committee that there should be a limitation placed upon the present field from which annuitants are drawn. The debate during the consideration of these proposals took a turn which probably surprised the majority of the members of the Management Committee considering that the many appeals which have been made to branches and members during the past few years have not increased the income to any marked extent. Perhaps many representatives did not anticipate that such a very strenuous opposition would be displayed against the only alternative method of making ends meet. Yet so determined was the opposition to the proposed amendments of rules that it became necessary for the chairman of the Management Committee to withdraw the proposals originally submitted.

The defeat was not, however, inglorious, for it brought to light a clear manifestation on the part of the branch representatives that the members of the Association were quite capable of ensuring that the demands on the Fund would be met by subscriptions. One delegate said that the Fund had been built up entirely on the spirit of benevolence and that the most important feature of the Fund was its humanity. Another delegate gave as his opinion that the amount handed in during the Purse Session of the Conference ought to have been considerably more than it was, but that, before increasing the amount of subscriptions, the mem-

bers who were not contributing should be called upon to do their bit.

The remarks of these delegates give a clear pointer to what must happen in future. Conference has decided that the present status of the Fund will be preserved at all costs; that the spirit of benevolence and the humanity of administration shall not be ceded to anybody under any circumstances. But in order to preserve that spirit, in order to continue with a humane administration which has so aptly been described on more than one occasion as "the pride of N.A.L.G.O." it is necessary, nay, imperative, that the income of the Fund should be augmented so that the increased and ever-increasing expenditure may be met.

### A Hundred Per Cent Effort

It is easy to gloat over a successful resistance to what some delegates felt to be an anti-democratic effort on the part of the National Executive Council to gain a tight-reined control of the administration of the Fund and it is easier still to get a thrill out of defeating the proposals of an executive body, but neither will provide funds to maintain widows and orphans of our late colleagues and to assist our less fortunate members over a difficult period in their lives.

The position cannot remain as it was left at the Scarborough Conference—it would be impossible for the Fund to carry on. What must happen is that every branch, every member, *you*, must ensure that Cheltenham will be a vindication of the opinion expressed at Scarborough. This means that there must be a long, sustained, and one hundred per cent. effort on behalf of the Fund during the year before us. Many appeals have been made for support during past years. The Conference turned those appeals into a mandate and it must be carried out.

## THE HADOW REPORT

THE summer conference of the Institute of Public Administration, which was held from June 22 to 25 last, provided another very valuable opportunity for a full-dress discussion on the "Hadow" report and full advantage was taken of it. The debates were of a very high order and presented points of view from all possible angles.

Dr. Picken, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Welsh National School of Medicine and a former medical officer of health of Cardiff, presented a paper detailing the professorial-cum-practical difficulties which would be encountered in one section of the service by the recommendations of the report. Lady Simon treated the subject in her ever-fresh way from the standpoint of the councillor; the purely academic bias was brought to bear by Principal A. E. Morgan, of Hull University College;

the town clerk of Norwich, Mr. N. B. Rudd, presented the administrator's outlook; and the detached, impersonal view of the theorist was adequately delivered by Dr. Herman Finer, of the London School of Economics.

As is usual when this report is discussed by any representative body, the recommendation relating to university graduates took up most of the time.

The difficulties in the way of complete implementation of the suggestion were easier to realise when it was remembered that there were only a few authorities where there was room for the graduate who had not qualified technically or professionally. Since it was not only the size of the authority which mattered, but the sub-division of the work of that authority into departments, these difficulties were merely accentuated. It is agreed that local government cannot afford to close its doors to the graduates. Everyone will admit the better the material, the more will local government benefit; but that must not blind us to many things which must not be overlooked. It stands to the credit of that representative gathering of over one thousand delegates of all grades of local government officers which constituted the annual conference of N.A.L.G.O. that the only point upon which a real stand was made was the insistence upon safeguards for those already in the service.

### No Preferential Treatment

Mr. Hill criticized a suggestion made by Professor Morgan that "there must still be a bridge whereby merit can pass from the executive to the administrative grade." An elementary knowledge of physical geography, Mr. Hill said, would prove that bridges were instituted to help people over the obstacles of nature. But why devise a system which will require bridges? Furthermore, was it not a reflection upon the ability of the university graduate that their position must rest upon their superior education? The Hadow report itself made the position quite clear. Its opinion was that there should be no preferential treatment for graduates or that a proportion of the higher posts should be reserved for them. If local government officers could be sure that this recommendation would be observed, then there was nothing to fear.

Mr. Hill agreed with Professor Morgan that opinion was sharply divided as to whether the present curriculum of university degrees was better than a special course designed for the training of a public administrator *per se*. The one important factor, he suggested, that had not yet been considered was the question of whether a first-class degree in classics, mathematics, or philosophy had left that first-class mind with a bias in favour of or against public administration. If it had not received a bias in favour of public administration, then the training was not

(Continued on page 568, col. 2)

# WHAT OUR READERS SAY

## "COST OF LIVING" INDEX

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR.—At the recent annual Conference it was almost unanimously agreed to obtain an amendment of the present method of calculating the "Cost of Living" index. At the same meeting the N.E.C. reported that a N.A.L.G.O. national scale of salaries had been prepared and adopted.

Does it not seem a wrong tactic to ask for an amendment of a system which is generally condemned as unsatisfactory and full of anomalies, and which is based on pre-war wages, when, after much consideration, a national scale of salaries has been prepared?

I have been of the opinion that N.A.L.G.O.'s object was to secure a consolidated salary, having an equitable relation to present-day circumstances, in order to abolish the fluctuating salary, received by the officer who happens to be subject to the cost of living index.

If the N.A.L.G.O. scale is a fair and reasonable one, should we not use all our strength in securing its adoption generally, rather than endeavour to obtain two scales of salaries with official approval, i.e. pre-war salary plus cost of living bonus and/or N.A.L.G.O.'s scale?

It is also known that some of our colleagues have adjustments (minus quantities) on the official cost of living index.

A consolidated stable salary is essential, from all points of view, not the least being superannuation values.

Yours, etc.,  
A. SHILLITO.

Tottenham.

## THE EXAMINATION BAR

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR.—On reading the N.E.C.'s recommendations concerning the Hadow report I am surprised to learn that the N.E.C. considers the examination bar to promotion from the general grade should only apply to future entrants to the Service. Why? Surely there is nothing to prevent officers not in possession of a diploma from getting one.

It would appear to me that less harm may be done by promoting officers possessing recognised diplomas than by the old rule of promotion—seniority. At the moment there is no incentive for the young local government officer to study for examinations; his only hope of promotion lies in waiting for "dead men's shoes." Is there to be no reward for the officer who has had the foresight to see that the old order must give way to the new sooner or later?

The question of salary applies equally well to all grades, and is therefore entirely apart from the promotion question.

Yours, etc.,  
"Prorsum Semper Honeste."

Lancaster.

## COMPULSORY SUPERANNUATION BILL

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR.—I was very interested in the letter from "Sufferer" in a recent issue, and I, like him, very much regret the reply of the Minister of Health regarding the prospects of introducing a Compulsory Bill. The Minister of Health is constantly paying lip service to the value and importance of the work of the Local Government Officer—and in his Housing and Slum Clearance Campaign he has to rely on the assistance of these officers—but unfortunately his appreciation does not go any further.

The amazing thing to me is that an Association such as N.A.L.G.O. can only get a voluntary scheme passed in 1922, and then, 12 years later, be told that there is *no time* for a compulsory bill. We are all well aware of the injustices and anomalies caused through the present state of superannuation, without any

further stressing, and what I should like to point out is: could anyone imagine, for instance, that the various well-led teachers' organisations would have been content to wait so long under such conditions? Compare their case with ours—their superannuation fund includes a contribution of 5 per cent. from the Exchequer, estimated to cost £6,785,000 during 1934-35, and time has been found to pass Acts in 1918, 1922, 1925, 1928, and 1933, while we have had one in 1922; also the cost of pensioning on full service all teachers retiring now was estimated by the Emmott Committee as a gift equivalent to an annuity of £4,500,000 for forty years, while the Act we ask for would not place any charge on the Exchequer.

It is fairly certain that a large proportion of the authorities who have not adopted the Act after 12 years will not do so until compelled, and in my opinion the way to secure justice for the Local Government Officer is for the Association to concentrate all its energies on securing a Compulsory Act, and I think that the power and prestige of our Association should be sufficient to make Parliament realise the justice and equity of our claim.

Yours, etc.,  
ANOTHER SUFFERER.

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON SUPER-ANNUATION

A form was sent to the clerk of each local authority in England, Scotland, and Wales on June 27, asking for information regarding the number of officers and workmen employed and other particulars.

In a covering circular it is pointed out that the subject of compulsory superannuation has been brought prominently to the fore by the Bill drafted by the Association and presented to Parliament by Sir Henry Jackson on May 9, which is under official consideration at the present time; the details required can only be supplied by the officials of the local authorities and these will be a great help to all concerned with the subject; the questionnaire should be returned to Headquarters by July 3.

## THE HADOW REPORT

(Continued from page 567)

going to be of the same value to the Local Government Service; in fact, it would be definitely derogatory to that progress of the service which they all desired.

It must not be overlooked, he maintained, what influence that age-long opinion, that the public service was a "soft" job, would have upon the service. The idea of a sheltered occupation appealed to the "soft" job mind and, consequently, the vigorous mind which went to the university would often think of other occupations.

Mr. Hill pointed out that there was some suspicion in the minds of local government officers that the recommendation of the Hadow Committee was influenced solely by a desire to find jobs for university graduates. If it were a genuine desire to provide local government with university-trained minds, then the measure of that desire will be marked by the degree of readiness of the universities to give facilities for post-entry training to practising local government officers.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE SCARBOROUGH CONFERENCE

By F. A. BRISTOW (Reigate)

No one who has attended successive N.A.L.G.O. conferences can fail to be impressed by the enthusiasm of the delegates. As an institution of democratic progress, it is hard to beat, but without these conferences such progress would be impossible. There is no executive dictatorship in N.A.L.G.O. Proposals from the Executive which have any element of retrogression go the way they deserve, but Conference is not averse to adopting new ideas to meet new conditions, and is not afraid to quote Mr. G. B. Shaw, to throw out its dirty water and get in clean.

It believes in planning to some extent; but not to a fixed planning. As the late Mr. F. Marsden once said, "we do not want the matter settled once and for all." There is all the difference in the world between planning for the immediate and the distant future.

Furthermore, N.A.L.G.O. is not a machine which lives only to perpetuate its own existence. To rotate inside a closed circle is a policy of despair. The efficacy of N.A.L.G.O. as an institution is essential if its prime purpose is to be achieved. N.A.L.G.O. is something more than an association of dumb administrators; its members, who are in daily contact with the life and soul of the country, have the glorious opportunity of service to the community. That community is crying aloud for social and economic reconstruction. Cannot N.A.L.G.O. tackle these problems? There is a vast field of opportunity to put into practice the full meaning of the text quoted by the Lord Bishop of Hull at Scarborough.

By far the most important topic at the Scarborough Conference was the consideration of the "Hadow" Report, which so vitally affects both existing and future local government officers. Although at one stage it seemed that Conference was getting confused, and it became difficult to understand whether one of the gentlemen on the platform believed in the "inevitability of gradualness" or the "gradualness of inevitability," or even whether he believed in any sort of progress at all, yet Conference managed to keep its head by sane argument and vote. The speeches were of a quality of which no organisation could be ashamed, but they tended to show up less the defects of our local administrative system than in the national educational system. Although it is not the province of this association to promote these obvious educational reforms, it is to be hoped that it will not be backward in supporting those bodies which may from time to time urge them.

That far-reaching alterations in the system of local government in this country will ensue is clear. The "Hadow" Report is only the beginning. It is equally clear that the constitution of the central government must soon be completely amended, for the complexity of modern life has entirely outgrown the parliamentary system. But whatever shape these reforms take, be they in the direction of provincial parliaments or the separation centrally of the functions of Government, political, economic, and cultural, N.A.L.G.O. as an association must be prepared for the change.

The first essential is efficiency which, in large measure, is already attained. The service deserves the best brains in the country, but it must be remembered that these are not to be found in any particular class of school. Secondly, the service must be free from public criticism. There must be no semblance of cause for the criticism from which the service has suffered so much in the past, for only thus can public confidence and support be secured.

**ADVANTAGES OF LOOSE LEAF**

The opening lecture of the second half of the Session's educational programme of the Stockport Branch of N.A.L.G.O. was held recently, when Mr. H. Clegg, loose-leaf expert, of London, spoke on the "Contribution of Loose Leaf." Mr. G. Mark, vice-president of the branch, presided.

At the time loose leaf was introduced into the United States and later into England, something less than fifty years ago, said the lecturer, it was offered for pen entries. The advantages claimed for loose leaf are: The facility of movement of the punched sheet; the ease of extraction or insertion at any point in the binder; the possibilities of rearrangement of sheets following rearrangements of districts or the fact that loose-leaf sheets might be converted to what was for all practical purposes a bound book enabled the adoption of loose leaf for ledgers to become a fairly rapid process. The proved success of loose leaf for ledgers quickly led to its adoption for a thousand and one other purposes in conjunction with the pen. Mr. Clegg suggested that the advantages of loose leaf in conjunction with typewriters, billing machines, punch-card machines, book-keeping machines, etc., were of great value to business men.

The introduction of superannuation had meant the installation of thousands of loose-leaf records—the ideal record being a separate sheet for each municipal officer, containing his life's history in the service, his promotions and advances, together with his and the authority's contributions under the superannuation scheme.

A successful whist drive and dance was organised by the South-west Gloucestershire Branch. For whist eighty members and friends took part, and a further forty arrived for the dance. For the whist prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. J. B. Kendall, wife of the chairman. Refreshments were provided by the Master and Matron (Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith).

**SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS**

(Continued from page 566)

instructed its Finance Committee to consider and report upon the effect of the adoption by the Council of the Act of 1922, and authorised the Committee to designate posts and obtain all information and if they so approve get an actuarial valuation requisite to enable them to present a comprehensive report.

There was a vote of 37 for and 30 against superannuation at the meeting of the Kesteven (Lincs) County Council on May 30, 1934, the necessary two-thirds majority, therefore, not being obtained.

The following movements are reported:—Actuarial reports obtained by Barnoldswick U.D.C., Royston U.D.C., and Durham R.D.C. Actuarial reports to be obtained by Port Talbot, and Felling U.D.C.

Progress in Scotland is reported under "Scottish News" in column 3 of this page.

**SCOTTISH DISTRICT NOTES****RESTORATION OF SALARY "CUTS"**

(BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

**T**HE problem of the restoration of salary "cuts," which occupied so much of our time and attention up till the end of May, has now given place to the question of security of tenure. On the "cuts" question we have fared not so badly on the whole. Indeed, considering the original attitude of a number of councils, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves. Edinburgh was a disappointment, only half the cut being restored. After having the Sub-Committee's recommendation overturned by the Finance Committee, it was unfortunate to lose the motion in the Council for full restoration by only three votes. Our Edinburgh members, however, who knew and appreciated the fight we put up, have taken the decision in the spirit of true sportsmen.

**Bravo Aberdeen !**

In Aberdeen, contrary to all expectation, full restoration was gained, and in Lanarkshire we had good success. In Dundee we lost the vote for full restoration, but knowing the temper of the Council, our Dundee members are satisfied that we did our best in the circumstances. Of 60 authorities that imposed "cuts," 35 have now fully restored them, while 13 have accorded partial restoration, which generally amounts to one-half on the higher salaries, full restoration, however, being made to those on the lower scales. Lanarkshire, for instance, has made full restoration on salaries up to £350 and half restoration on salaries above that figure. Glasgow Corporation made full restoration up to £350 some time ago, but on the higher scales no decision has yet been reached. Recently Mr. Mortimer interviewed Hamilton Town Council, which had come to the surprising decision to restore the "cuts" to only five members of the staff. As a result of the interview, the question is to be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Council.

**Poor Law Officers' Tenure**

The Poor Law (Scotland) Bill has given us an opportunity of asking for a measure of security of tenure to senior Poor Law officers. Within the past week or two we have made every effort to get a clause dealing with the subject inserted in the Bill. A memorandum was sent to every Scottish Member of Parliament. A deputation consisting of Mr. Donald Maclean, of Greenock; Mr. John Campbell, of Kilbarchan; and Mr. J. Arnot, Governor of Craiglockhart, Edinburgh, as representing the Governors' and Matrons' Association, together with Mr. Mortimer, spent two days in the House of Commons interviewing members and permanent officials. A second memorandum to meet certain objections raised has now been sent to the Government and to several Members

of Parliament. At the moment of writing, Clause II of the Bill, to which we have lodged our amendment, has not yet been considered by the Committee, and we are, therefore, not yet in a position to report the result of our efforts, but we are hopeful that some compromise may be reached.

**Superannuation Schemes**

Three local authorities in Scotland have within the past fortnight adopted schemes under the 1922 Act. These authorities are Aberdeen County Council, Paisley Town Council, and Coatbridge Town Council. By next month we hope to be able to report that Greenock and Inverness Town Councils may be added to the list. Both these councils have agreed to the principle, but the statutory meetings have not yet taken place. Kirkcaldy Town Council recently turned down a proposed scheme with which, however, the Association had no concern. We believe, however, that the Kirkcaldy officials are likely to join the Association at an early date.

**Conference on Whitleyism**

We have asked the Ministry of Labour to convene a conference of representatives of local authorities and of our Association to be held on September 22. To this conference we suggest that invitations be sent to all county councils in Scotland and to all the large burghs. We think that the County Councils' Association, the Convention of Burghs, and the Association of the Counties of Cities should also be invited to send a representative. The conference will be of great importance, for on its decision will depend whether or not we are to have a Whitley Council for the local government service in Scotland. We trust those members who have influence in the matter will do their best to make the conference a success.

**Law Cases**

We are still having to bear "the Law's delays," three cases pending at the moment. Two of them are comparatively trifling, but one—that of Carnegie v. Roxburgh County Council—has been the subject of much consultation for some time past. In these matters, one does not care to prophesy, but it does seem likely that we shall be able to report the Court's decision in our next issue.

In the course of a day or two we shall be issuing a circular to branches about our annual sports day, which is always a pleasant function. Meantime, would the bowlers and golfers and tennis players kindly note September 15 for Bridge of Allan? They will receive all information later on.

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# REVIEWS OF BOOKS

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**, by Sir William Hart and Mr. W. O. Hart, Barrister-at-Law, University Lecturer in Law. (Butterworth & Co., Ltd.) 21s.

This book should prove an admirable introduction to the subject of local government and administration. Sir William Hart has drawn on his vast experience in local government, including the Town Clerkship of Sheffield for several years, whilst Mr. W. O. Hart, in his capacity as university lecturer, is fully conversant with the student approach to this subject. The book should prove invaluable to law students in or intending to enter the ranks of those engaged in local administration. It should, moreover, prove of considerable interest to those who are desirous of knowing more of the subject, and it is refreshing to study the existing system of local government from the fresh view-point presented by the authors. The book emphasises the historical development of institutions, and gives a close analysis of the existing system, including the effects of the changes in the law as a result of the Local Government Act, 1933.

Part I of the book is concerned with local authorities, and includes a discussion on the origin and growth of local authorities, showing their present-day functions and the procedure in connection with the alteration of administrative areas. This part also contains a chapter dealing with Representation on local authorities and the chapter on the Practical Working of Local Authorities clearly demonstrates the manner in which the theory of Local Government is practically applied. Local Government Finance and Audit, with chapters on General Powers of Local Authorities, By-laws, the Administration of Justice and Government in the Metropolis are embodied in this part of the book.

Part II deals with the subject of central control over local authorities. Part III deals with the various Local Government Services, e.g., Public Health, Housing, Town and Country Planning, Education, Police, Poor Law, etc. Each function is carefully analysed, commencing with a general historical survey and the acquisition of the particular function. A close analysis of the development of that function by local authorities is then given and an explanation of its present-day operation.

The book provides an excellent historical survey of local government work; a complete explanation of the present-day system of local government and the law relating to local government has been comprehensively dealt with.

## PLAN OR NO PLAN

**PLAN OR NO PLAN**, by Barbara Wootton. (Gollancz.) 5s.

This is a really important book. Its purpose is to show the essential difference between a planned and an unplanned society. "Plan or No Plan" contains an interesting summary of the forces which have led up to the present *impasse* of under-consumption on the one hand and over-production on the other. It is written in non-technical terms, in a clear and concise style, devoid of rhetoric, special pleading and propaganda. The use of huge figures is reduced to a minimum and where possible concrete cases are given as illustrations of an argument.

The author is scrupulously fair, and although she comes down on the side of planning in the end, she does not attempt to gloss over the difficulties to be encountered. She maintains that unrestricted private enterprise is no longer possible. That is recognised by industry itself in the various schemes of rationalisation which have already been carried out to protect the interests of manufacturers and to prevent "cut-throat" competition. To counteract this some form of protection for consumers is

necessary, and the elements of planning at once appear.

"A monetary system," says Mrs. Wootton, "only works properly when it obviates the inconveniences which would arise in a world of barter, but at the same time does not delude us into making things which we should never have made. . . . Under a perfect monetary system, in an unplanned economy the major economic decisions ought to read exactly as they would if we could imagine the same society employing a system of barter."

She proceeds to show the errors made and the difficulties encountered by the Soviet, but admits their remarkable willingness to learn by experience and to abandon, at any time, schemes which have proved unsuccessful.

She illustrates the centrifugal and centripetal forces at work in society as they are in the individual—the perpetual conflict between private gain and the need for help and protection from society as a whole.

The book is of a handy size with good paper and print, and there is an excellent index. It would have been helpful if a few of the graphic pictorial method of statistics had been used as illustrations, but at the price this was probably not possible. This book is for everyone interested in our present difficulties and not only for experts, though some of them could learn a lot from it.

A fascinating book, honest, thorough, clear, balanced and concise. Buy it!—C. K. W.

## ROAD AND RAIL ACT

**GUIDE TO THE ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC ACT, 1933**, by R. Moelwyn Hughes and Dingle Foot, M.P. (News-Chronicle Publications Department, "Chronicle" House, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.) 6d.

This guide deals with Part I of the Act which relates to road transport. From July 1, 1934, every mechanically propelled vehicle made to haul or carry goods, as well as every trailer drawn by such vehicle, requires a licence under the Act before it can be used on a public road and the first regulations made for this purpose have been incorporated in this Act.

Naturally many questions will arise and many regulatory provisions will require explanation in non-technical language for the guidance of those affected by this Part of the Act. The authors have set out to meet this need, and they have succeeded; in fact, so well have they succeeded that I would recommend this book to those who will be concerned with the administration of the new licensing provisions, for it is the alpha and omega of their requirements in the day-to-day duties which they perform.

One agrees whole-heartedly with Mr. Clement Davies, K.C., M.P., who, in the foreword, writes: "The authors of this book have succeeded in explaining the Act and the Regulations in clear, concise, simple language, so that anyone reading this book should be able to understand what his position is and what he has to do." The authors have also succeeded in doing what no other legal authors who try to explain a new Act of Parliament have yet succeeded in doing, that is, to explain the Act without footnotes, cross references, or marginal notes. The book is a plain straightforward guide."—D. J. P.

## PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS

**PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS: THEIR PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**, by L. B. Pekin. (Hogarth Press.) 5s.

Mr. L. B. Pekin has written a valuable and stimulating book, which all parents and teachers should read. His criticisms of the public schools, though occasionally marred by overstatement, are pertinent and usually just, particularly as regards organised games, in which it is hard to distinguish the team spirit from the herd instinct, the "tuck shop" system and the lack of privacy. The author makes out a very

strong case for the progressive schools, but does not do justice to the achievements of the public school methods. Every system, after all, must have the defects of its qualities. This applies also to the progressive systems, but where they gain is in their plasticity and ability to respond to public opinion. The rigidity of the public schools is their undoing.

It would seem that the ideals for which boys are to be educated in the future are changing and this change of emphasis should be reflected in the schools. The fact is that several different types of schools are needed. To stick to one system for all children is bound to result in a large percentage of "misfits." We should like to hear more of day schools, grammar schools, and developments in the elementary and secondary state schools in these surveys. After all, the education of England does not lie entirely in the hands of the public school, great though its influence is.

Apart from co-education, the principal virtue of progressive schools is their complete rejection of fear as an instrument of education. The whole life of the school is kept going largely by a wholesome fear of punishment, with the result that the average public school boy develops, not a disciplined character but a superb ingenuity in not being "found out."

Generally speaking, Mr. Pekin assures us that a progressive school, where there is no punishment, is remarkably orderly. The pupils impose discipline upon themselves, often by some system of regular debate, and the adults interfere dictatorially only in matters affecting health. The visitor to a public school is, however, apt to come away with hair-raising stories of tiny tots asking him for cigarettes and showering him, if refused, with obscene and blasphemous abuse!

The great merit of Mr. Pekin's book is that it stimulates discussion and makes one think out where one stands. Let us have as many different types of school as possible and send the boy or girl to the school most in keeping with his or her abilities, tendencies and character.—C. K. W.

## LONDON HOUSING

**HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE IN LONDON**, by Hugh Quigley and Ismay Goldie. (Methuen.) 7s. 6d.

In London to-day over half a million people live more than two to a room. After nearly fifty years of endeavours to rid London of slums, and after spending nearly £30,000,000 on housing, the London County Council still finds it necessary to plan further expenditure of £35,000,000 spread over the next ten years.

The authors of this book have words of praise for the achievement of the local authorities, for the handsome and health-giving estates of the London County Council and other housing bodies, but they find the housing problem still unsolved.

The fundamental defect, they argue, is that the new houses are too dear (or too far from the centre of the town) to meet the needs of the poorer sections of the working class who are precisely those for whom subsidised living accommodation is most necessary. Their second line of criticism is that the existing duplication of housing powers between the county council and the borough councils inevitably weakens the drive towards slum clearance. Not even the county council with its 110 square miles is comprehensive enough for the vast planning and constructional works which are needed in Greater London. The authors favour the setting up by statute of a new central authority to "take over entirely the responsibility and the functions of the local authorities . . . removed as far as possible from local and national political influence."

A drastic scrapping of existing local government machinery, indeed; but to desperate evils, desperate remedies.—John Dover.

(Continued on page 572)

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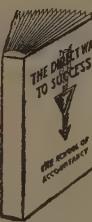
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# REVIEWS OF BOOKS

(Continued from page 570)

## SLAUGHTER HOUSE LAW

**THE LAW RELATING TO SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND UNSOUND FOOD,** by R. C. Maxwell O.B.E., LL.D., (Lond.). (The Sanitary Publishing Co., Ltd., 8, Breams Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.4.) 13s. post free.

This is a handbook of the law on these important aspects of public health work. It has been specially revised and brought up to date in view of the passing of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

This is the only legal work which covers this ground, and the passing of the Act of 1933 seemed to the author to be the appropriate time to revise, re-arrange and enlarge his first edition, published during 1925.

All the legislative enactments, statutory orders, regulations and official circulars relating to meat—its inspection and condemnation, if unsound, etc.—and to slaughter-houses, have been brought together and annotated. The official code of Model Slaughter-house By-laws in its latest form has also been included.

Monopoly often breeds inefficiency, but in this case the reverse is true. It is the handbook of the administrator, the textbook of the student, and the guide of the man in the "trade" whose duty it will be to conform with the law as set out in this work.—D. J. P.

## "TRAGEDY OF A BRICK BOX"

In his latest novel, "Tragedy of a Brick Box" (Sampson Low, 7s. 6d. net), Mr. Jackson Budd takes a line hitherto unattempted in earlier work. None the less there is preserved that sense of fitness in the telling of a story and the gift to tell it which the author has ever exercised. It may be that some of his readers will prefer the jolly pages of previous occasions, the busking, flirtatious, escapades rather than the stern recital here laid out. Direst poverty, slum dwellings, social and moral downturn, these are the topics which Mr. Budd has chosen, and his choice is made from a close observance of the terrifying truth. Undoubtedly there is a fascinating hold in the pity of it when once the tale is sampled.

The tragedy of poor Joe Kyrd and Lil, his woman, a couple of decent, hard-working East-enders found lifeless, according to plan, makes prologue and epilogue. There's the ruin of young Elsie, Joe's daughter; there are broken hearts; broken homes, loss of job, loss of health, and the final cry of despairing death. Realism so intense has surely a purpose. These things do exist, and will have to be changed. A work of fiction may again inspire the move forward. Mr. Budd has come to grips in a very difficult theme, with skill and power and patient thoughts expressed. The "Brick Box" is, of course, a Byron simile.—W. B. K.

## LAW OF PLATO

**THE LAWS OF PLATO.** Translated into English by Professor A. E. Taylor. (J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., Aldine House, Bedford Street, London, W.C.2.) 38s. + lxviii pp. 10s. 6d. net.

The "Laws" is Plato's latest and most mature contribution to the theory of ethics, politics, jurisprudence, and education. It also contains a doctrine of natural religion from which all that has subsequently been written on the subject is derived. Plato's real importance as a practical thinker and reformer is usually underrated by the modern student, because his teaching on all these matters is generally known only from the more fascinatingly written, the much earlier and less mature, "Republic."

Hitherto there has been no good translation of the "Laws" for the English reader, apart

from an accompanying Greek text, except as one volume of the large and expensive version of the whole of Plato by Jowett. Professor Taylor has tried to remedy this defect by offering a version of Plato's ripest masterpiece, carefully made from the latest Greek text, that of Burnett, into vigorous and readable English, with a prefatory essay summarising and analysing the whole argument, and an estimate of the historical significance of Plato as a reformer of morals, laws, education, and religion.

The brief notes appended give either reasons for departure from Burnett's text, or short explanations on points likely to be obscure to the non-classical reader. It is hoped that the "Laws" may thus be made properly accessible at last to all English students of law, theology, political and educational theory.—D. J. P.

## TWO NEW NOVELS

The opening chapter of H. S. Keeler's new novel, "The Fiddling Cracksman" (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d.) reveals something of "what the newspapers say," in American headlines. Such things are often said in the States. But it is not so easy to discover why a burglar, having cracked his crib, never bothers with the plunder, but begins a violin recital to the tune of his own merry madness. Likewise, it seems difficult to guess why a certain Chinese man (not Chinaman) of mystery should assume fatherly care over a young lady he has not seen. And, finally, how and why and with what result this same fair maiden finds herself within reach of a Ruritanian crown. It is, however, all quite simple when Mr. Keeler gives reply. He does so in what is a most attractive thriller.

When we are assured by one so reliable as Carlton Dawe that "The Missing Treaty" had been stolen, we begin to see how much truth there may be in Muscovite fiction, how much fable in so-called fact. Countess Rostov had the opportunity needed; lacking such possession she would quickly have proceeded to make it. Her main chance lies in certain state archives and Secretaries to Under-Secretaries are not always what they should be. One person only was capable of meeting Russian methods, and here, as always, the mastery was his. In the Secret Service he was saluted as Colonel Peter Gautier, but all who have made Carlton Dawe's best acquaintance know him by the strangely formed nickname, "Leathermouth." To say this is "Leathermouth" again is all the recommendation required. (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d.)

## BUILDING EDUCATOR

In parts six, seven, and eight of the new edition of "Pitman's Building Educator," a wide and useful field is covered in "masonry" and "joinery," with evidence of more to follow. Every form, it would seem, of stonework erection is set out, the facts of building in woodwork being made equally clear. To the excellence of a well-printed text, which certainly is made for all to follow, there is an abundance of illustration—line-drawings, half-tone, and colour—giving plans, designs, figure formulae to suit all students. While being entirely technical, these pages offer much that should interest and instruct the house-buyer, especially in commencement. The parts, tastefully got up, are issued at 1s. 3d. net.

## TRAVEL BOOKS

**ENGLISH JOURNEY,** by J. P. Priestley (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.).  
**BEYOND THE MEXIQUE BAY,** by Aldous Huxley (Chatto and Windus, 12s. 6d.).

It would be difficult to discover two travel books more dissimilar than the two which are

the subject of this review. Mr. Priestley's journeys were confined to this country and the extent of his itinerary may be judged from the titles of his chapters, which include Southampton, Bristol and Swindon, the Cotswolds, the Black Country, West Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Tyne, East Durham, Lincoln and Norfolk. Mr. Aldous Huxley, on the other hand, visited places which most people have never heard of except in a geography lesson, and sometimes not even there. They include such exciting-sounding places as Oaxaca, Ahitlan, Guatemala City, Zacapulas and Chichinestango!

## A Different Outlook.

But the difference between these two books does not stop there. The two authors have a totally different outlook on life and mankind. Mr. Priestley likes the human race just as much as Mr. Huxley dislikes it; Mr. Priestley is a "good mixer" and finds just as much pleasure in the company of Mr. W. of West Riding, from whom he confesses he took a good many hints for his Jess Oakroyd, as he does in that of the old warehouseman N. in his native city of Bradford; the Nottingham Goose Fair, a second-rate music hall performance, the Liverpool Docks, a rehearsal of his play *Laburnum Grove* in Manchester—all bring grist to his mill; whereas Mr. Aldous Huxley views mankind with an almost inhuman detachment and would, one imagines, be much better pleased if the human body were filled, not with blood, but with a scientifically-compounded and completely aseptic kind of lymph.

## Poverty amidst Plenty.

Both books are intensely interesting. Mr. Priestley shows an unflagging zest for investigating the ways in which all sorts and conditions of people live as well as the methods of large-scale production in our more up-to-date factories; but he is, at the same time, conscious of the muddle and lack of organisation which have allowed slums to exist and people to be unfed in this so-called age of plenty. His account of the Durham miners and the slum children of Liverpool is evidence of that. His book is much more than a guide book because he has enriched it by his penetrating observations and illuminating comments.

## Bondage and Freedom.

To me, one of the most interesting qualities in "Beyond the Mexique Bay" is the way in which Mr. Aldous Huxley constantly switches over from a description of the habits and customs of the inhabitants of Central America to philosophical speculations and sociological comparisons with western civilisation. His book (which, I should not omit to say, is splendidly illustrated by beautiful photographic plates, presumably taken by the author) closes with a reflection upon the price mankind has to pay for living in the intellect and spirit. "Human Bondage," he says, "in the words of Spinoza, is the price of Human Freedom. The advantages of the first state (and Human Bondage has many and substantial advantages) are incompatible with those of the second. We must be content to pay, and indefinitely to go on paying, the irreducible price of the goods we have chosen."—C. K. W.

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Among eighty-seven guests who attended the annual dinner of Easington Sub-Branch of the Durham County Council Branch were Mr. J. B. Swinden, Divisional Organising Secretary of the district, as guest of the evening, Mr. W. T. Thompson, the Area Public Assistance Officer, and Mr. T. H. Williamson, the hon. secretary of the Easington and District Branch. The dinner was followed by whist and dancing.

## WHITLEY COUNCILS

### North Wales District

The Provincial Whitley Council for North Wales, on April 16, authorised the publication of a booklet setting out its recruitment scheme, salary scales, and other recommendations for the guidance of the local authorities in the area. The early publication of its recommendations is a testimony to the zeal of the Provincial Council in dealing with the subjects of primary importance to the local authorities and their staffs. Having in mind that it was as recently as April 21, 1933, when, at a conference of representatives of local authorities and staffs held at Llandudno, it was decided that it was desirable to establish joint machinery, and that the constitution of the Council had to be settled and information obtained regarding existing practice in the area before the Council could seriously tackle the many questions for adjudication, the Council undoubtedly has worked with commendable rapidity.

As might reasonably be expected, the general trend of the recommendations of the Provincial Council is along the lines of those of the neighbouring Council for Lancashire and Cheshire, which has been operating with such conspicuous success for nearly fourteen years. The recommended scales show considerable likeness, except that the maxima of the various grades are somewhat lower than those in Lancashire and Cheshire.

It now remains to be seen whether the recommendations will be translated into practice. This is a matter which rests finally with the local authorities themselves, but the importance of the part which can be played by the officers it would be difficult to over-state. It will be for them to bring the recommendations before their councils to impress upon them the moderation of the standards now set up for the area, and the moral obligation which Provincial Whitley Council agreements impose on authorities and staffs alike to honour the findings of such bodies.

The work of the Provincial Council materially assists the authorities in North Wales to implement the findings of the Hadow Committee on the qualifications, recruitment, training, and promotion of local government officers. If the work of the Provincial Council for North Wales proves to have effects as beneficial in that area as those of the neighbouring council in Lancashire and Cheshire, then the labours of those constituting the Provincial Whitley Council will be well rewarded.

### West Riding Provincial Whitley Council

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council, held on June 7, consideration was given to the resolution passed by the Joint Council to the effect that the Executive Committee should consider the scales of salaries included in the scheme of service conditions suggested by the Council, as revised in April, 1933, and report as to the desirability of any alterations being made in the scales.

The Chairman reported that the question had been considered by the authorities' side, and it had been decided to suggest that, in view of all the circumstances and, in particular, of the fact that the negotiations between the Government and the Civil Service on the question of stabilisation of salaries were still proceeding, consideration of the matter be adjourned for six months.

The staff side raised no objection to the proposals of the authorities' side, but asked the Committee to consider the desirability of recommending the Joint Council to adopt the National Minimum Scales of Salaries issued by N.A.L.G.O. Copies of the scales referred to were circulated to the members present.

It was resolved that the Joint Council be recommended to defer consideration of the question of altering the scales of salaries included in the scheme of service conditions for a period of six months from the date of this

(Continued at foot of col. 3)

## N.A.L.G.O. AT PLAY

### Kidderminster

The first season's play of Kidderminster Branch Football Club has brought to light some very promising players, and the results generally cannot be regarded as anything but highly satisfactory. It is commendable that the team have won fifteen matches and lost only six, four being drawn, while the goals scored for them total ninety-two compared with sixty by their opponents.

### Stockport and Warrington

Stockport Branch of N.A.L.G.O. visited Warrington to play their fellow Nalgoites at bowls, cricket, and tennis. The games were played on the sports field of the Police Athletic Club.

At bowls, 34 ends were played, Warrington being successful in 23, the remaining 11 being won by Stockport. In the aggregate Warrington won by 89 points. Stockport were successful at cricket by 82 runs to 45. At tennis the games were strenuously contested. Warrington secured the rubber by 5 events to 2, 2 drawn, 12 sets to 5, and 89 games to 75.

At the conclusion of the games Mr. R. Willacy, past president of the Stockport Branch, expressed thanks for the kindly reception which was received from their Warrington friends, whilst their hospitality had been most generous.

### Lindsey Rifle Club

The Lindsey (Nalgo) Miniature Rifle Club closed their initial winter session with a "Pick Your Own Handicap" competition. At the close of the competition the prizes won by the various members during the season were presented by Mrs. D. Bradshaw, wife of the president of the club. The following were among the successful members:—

President's annual challenge cup (presented by Mr. A. G. Bradshaw), Mr. P. Scorer; Ladies' annual challenge cup (presented by Mr. J. A. Chatterton), Mrs. E. M. Pennington; silver cup (for five best cards during season), presented by Mr. R. N. Barker—1st, Mr. C. I. Pennington; 2nd, Mr. J. C. Townend; ladies' prize (presented by Mrs. Barker), Mrs. E. M. Pennington; novice's prize (handicap) (presented by Mr. T. Cook), Mrs. Barker; novice's prize (scratch) (presented by Mr. C. I. Pennington), Mrs. Scorer.

"Pick Your Own Handicap" competition (first prize, leather attaché case, presented by Mr. E. W. Scorer), 1st, Mr. J. C. Townend; 2nd (tied), Messrs. J. Nelson, C. I. Pennington, P. Scorer and Mrs. Barker; spoon competition (handicap) (three silver spoons presented by Imperial Chemical Industries), 1st, Mr. P. Scorer; 2nd, Mrs. Scorer; 3rd, Mr. H. Ridehalgh; *News of the World* certificate, Mr. C. I. Pennington; *Daily Mail* competition, Mr. J. C. Townend; *Daily Telegraph* competition, Mrs. E. M. Pennington; Bell medal, Mr. C. I. Pennington.

The club tied with the Lincoln Liberals for the first place in the Lincoln City League.

### Chester v. Cheshire County

Before an enthusiastic crowd of spectators recently Chester Municipal Officers' football team revenged their previous defeat by the Cheshire County Officers. The home side took command from the start, and within half an hour established a 5-0 lead. This was reduced by the County Officers before the interval by goals scored by Evans and Helsby (penalty). In the second half the rout was completed, the Municipal Officers adding a further four goals. The Municipal Officers showed good combination and marksmanship, while Helsby and Curbishley were the outstanding visitors. The scorers for the home side were: Humphreys, Dodd, Williams (two), Downward (two), Bellis (two) and Hesketh.

### North Wales Snooker Tournament

Rhyl Branch successfully contested the final of the North Wales snooker tournament against Colwyn Bay Branch at Colwyn Bay. The scores were: Colwyn Bay, 245; Rhyl, 341. In the semi-final round Rhyl Branch had easily defeated Denbighshire County Council Branch, 357-186. After the final the North Wales District Sub-Committee entertained the teams.

## NALGO RIFLE CLUBS

### "Local Government Chronicle Cup"

*First Round.*—Bournemouth (scratch) 397 beat Manchester 3709+ = 379; Leeds (scratch) 391 beat Dundee (scratch); Southampton (4) and Kent County Officers (6)—byes.

*Second Round.*—Southampton 389 beat Bournemouth 384; Leeds 389 beat Kent County Officers 386.

*Final Round.*—Leeds 392 beat Southampton 388.

### The "Greener Cup," 1934

	Shot	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Bournemouth ..	5	4	0	1	9
Leeds ..	5	3	0	2	8
Kent C. O. ..	5	2	0	1	5
Southampton ..	5	2	0	1	5
Manchester ..	5	1	4	0	2
Dundee ..	5	0	4	1	1

## BY INITIALS YE SHALL KNOW THEM -

Before the blackboard on which are chalked up special trains and excursions in the Leeds New Station were gathered a number of holiday-makers this morning, speculating on one item.

"Destination . . . NALGO . . . 11 o'clock, Platform 7."

"Where the deuce is Nalgo?" one asked another. The other names on the board were familiar, but Nalgo baffled them.

"Where is it?" a man asked an official. The railwayman grinned. "It isn't 'it'; it's them," he said.

He grew confidential. "You see, it's like this. The National Association of Local Government Officers are going on their annual office trip from Leeds to Scarborough to-day. It is my duty to chalk up the time and platform number of special trains ordered for parties like this. These people have chartered a whole train, but if I had put on the board Scarborough, 11 o'clock, platform 7, the train would have been invaded by hundreds of folk all bound for Scarborough. There would have been some trouble in ejecting them. As it is, any Nalgo knows at once. The others don't matter."—*Yorkshire Evening Post*, June 2.

## WHITLEY COUNCILS

(Continued from col. 1)

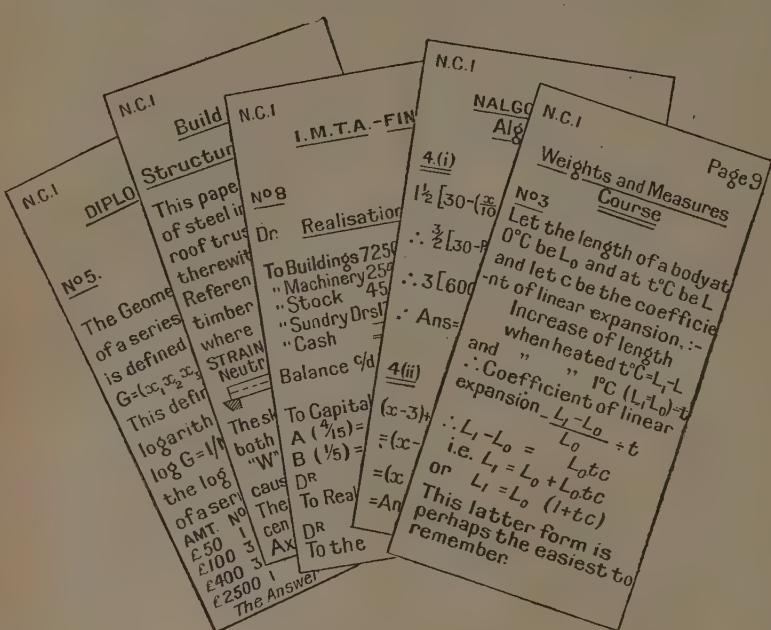
meeting, or until a settlement has been reached between the Government and the Civil Service if this should occur at an earlier date.

### Local Joint Committee

Representatives of the Association met the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Blackburn Town Council on May 2, to discuss the question of the formation of a local Whitley committee. After some consideration of the views put forward, it was decided to adjourn the matter pending receipt of further information.

An application to the Conisborough U.D.C. for the appointment of a local joint committee on Whitley lines has been unsuccessful.

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## BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON

### Doubling:

In an article dealing with "Etiquette" shortly before the new laws of Bridge were passed about eighteen months ago, I quoted one of the injunctions of the powers that be viz., "It is unfair purposely to make an insufficient bid."

This reference to an insufficient bid was misunderstood by one of my correspondents, who stated that he and his friends always preferred to play Bridge for points and not for tricks. He went on to say: "If my opponent sits quiet and doubles, thereby gaining more points than by asserting his strength, I shall be the last to complain; but am I now to chide him for playing unfairly. There is no fear of sitting quiet and doubling becoming common, because usually it does not pay. But for heaven's sake don't rob the game of its rare attractive features which a clever player may know just when to pull off. Steer me clear of players who do not observe the rules and etiquette of Bridge, but please give me an opponent who deliberately underbids."

The reference in the former code of etiquette to an insufficient bid was, however, intended to cover the case of the player who—knowing that a penalty for underbidding could be demanded—considered it more profitable to incur such penalty by making this, so-called, mistake than to call the required number of tricks; and the objection is the greater because of the general right to be discharged from the obligation to incur a penalty if a claim is made to one which cannot be sustained under the laws.

As my correspondent is clearly in favour of doubling, let me deal with this, and emphasise that in appropriate cases it is not merely fair to do so, but sound common sense.

### Penalties:

At Auction Bridge, if a player should be tempted to overbid and be defeated by 3 tricks, the normal bonus would be 300 points. In other words, as the result of the double, rubber points have been substantially obtained as the result of the operation of one hand only.

After all, what is the cause of the excitement which frequently precedes the rubber game? Surely, the fact that the winning of such game results in substantial bonuses.

At Auction, the winning of two games out of three carries with its 250 points, together with the score below the line and any incidental honours (approximately 300 points), but it is often overlooked that precisely the same advantages accrue from any double, which results in the opposition obtaining 3 less tricks than contracted for.

The most material aspect of this question arises, however, when there is a chance for a double and gain of either 200 or 300 points, but—instead of this—the should-be doublers make a bid which either (a) does not give them game, or (b) is actually defeated; and the adverse turnover under these circumstances should be carefully weighed by Auction Bridge players.

### Contract:

So far as Contract is concerned, it is now generally recognised that doubling the opponent (particularly when they are vulnerable) is frequently the most lucrative source of profit, and my correspondent was perfectly correct when he stated that it is the credit balance of points which matters at Bridge and not the winning of tricks, games, or even rubbers.

Most of us have "something on" as the result of a rubber, even though the stakes are small or even nominal, but there are still many players who seem to be dubious as to the propriety of sitting tight and doubling those ultra-enthusiasts who are apparently prepared to pay any price for the privilege of playing the hand.

I can only hope that they will not meet the correspondent who was kind enough to write to me so fully.

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## Huddersfield

About 150 members and guests were present at the annual dinner of the Huddersfield Branch, at which the president of the Branch (Mr. J. Greenwood) presided. The toast of "N.A.L.G.O." proposed by Councillor D. J. Cartwright, was responded to by the immediate past president of the Association, Mr. Cecil G. Brown, LL.B. Mr. W. Donnan proposed the toast of the "Huddersfield Corporation," and on behalf of the council Alderman R. Mitchell, Alderman T. Canby and Alderman W. Dawson responded.

## North Devon

A meeting of the North Devon Branch was attended by representatives of the Devon County Staff Association. The Mayor of Bideford (Councillor W. Harris, J.P., C.C.), and various members of the Town Council were also present. Mr. E. W. B. Abbott (past vice-president of the Association) gave an address on local government and the aims and objects of the Association. Tea was served at the hospitality of the president of the Branch (Mr. F. R. Gray, borough surveyor of Bideford).

## Fareham

Recent movements of members include Mr. H. H. C. Sweatman, Fareham, to junior architectural assistant, Manchester Corporation, and Mr. R. H. Kemp, Fareham, to Borough Engineer and Surveyor's department, Guildford.

## Norwich

In connection with the educational activities of the Norwich Branch, Mr. O. H. S. Sleightholme, City Accountant, gave the second of a series of lectures recently. The chair was taken by Mr. E. F. Bacon (chairman of the Eastern District Committee), others present including Mr. W. W. Elven, president of the Norwich Branch. Discussing "The £ s. d. of Local Government," Mr. Sleightholme referred to a special committee set up in 1824 to investigate the finances of the city and outlined the remarkable changes in local activity since that time.

At a ball and whist drive organised by the Norfolk and Norwich Branches in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, it was stated that the efforts of the Social Committee had largely helped towards contributions amounting to over £1,000 to the fund from the branches. It is hoped that the profits from the ball and whist drive will substantially increase this figure.

## Leigh

Leigh (Lancs.) Branch held their annual dinner recently, under the presidency of Mr. J. B. Hudson (Borough Electrical Engineer). Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. W. R. Boydell) and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson; (Chairman, North-Western District Committee). Dr. J. Clay Beckitt (Medical Officer of Health) gave the toast of N.A.L.G.O., to which Mr. Wilkinson replied. A pleasant part of the evening's proceedings was a presentation of an Electric Floor Standard to Dr. J. Clay Beckitt who has been President of the Branch for the past eleven years.

The following officers have been elected for the current year: President, Mr. J. B. Hudson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Sargent; Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. S. Prescott; Hon. Sports and Social Secretary, Mr. J. T. Aldred.

## Bexhill

As in former years the Christmas social organised by the Bexhill Branch proved to be a great success, the attendance numbering over 100. Mr. H. P. Storey (Assistant Borough Surveyor) ably discharged the duties of M.C.

## Tonbridge and District

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Tonbridge and District Branch, the President (Mr. W. L. Bradley) presented to Mr. M. Jenner a Duofold fountain pen in recognition of the valuable services he had rendered the Branch as Hon. Secretary since its inauguration in 1919, and to Mr. A. J. Bromley he handed a silver cigarette case. Mr. Bromley was Assistant Hon. Secretary from 1920 to 1926 and Hon. Treasurer 1926-1934. Mr. B. Bishop was appointed Hon. Secretary and Mr. F. G. Marchant, Hon. Treasurer. By invitation of the General Committee, Mr. Arthur Webb, F.L.A., Member of the N.E.C. and Chairman of the S.E. District Committee, attended the meeting and gave an interesting and instructive address on the work of N.A.L.G.O.

A successful whist drive and dance was held on February 2. Mr. L. W. Steer was largely responsible for the organisation. The prizes were presented by Mrs. W. N. Wood, of Southborough.

## Scunthorpe

A large increase in membership was reported at the branch annual meeting. The Divisional Secretary addressed the meeting on the work of the Association and appealed for keener support for the B. and O. Fund.

## Walsall

The report stated that the past year had been one of the most difficult periods the branch had encountered. Satisfaction was expressed at the successful work the Executive Committee had carried out, and at the fact that the branch had subscribed the highest amount in the West Midlands to the B. & O. Fund.

## Worcester County

Mr. G. A. Stone (N.E.C.), who was in the chair, was re-elected president. The Divisional Secretary addressed the meeting on the work of the Association.

## Leicester County

Members of the Leicestershire Local Government Officers' Association met at the King's Hall, Leicester, for the annual dinner. The company numbered several hundreds, and the guest of the evening was Lt.-Col. R. E. Martin, chairman of the County Council. Mr. Lucas E. Rumsey, Clerk of the County Council and president of the branch, proposed the toast of "The Visitors," which was responded to by Colonel Martin, who commented on the loyalty and efficiency of the staff of the county.

## West Bromwich

The annual dinner and dance of the West Bromwich Branch was held at the Town Hall. In responding to the toast of "N.A.L.G.O." the president, Mr. A. E. Hodder, referred to the satisfaction of the officers at the adoption of the Superannuation Act, and to the large part played by the Mayor, Councillor C. B. Adams, in bringing this about.

## Central Warwick

The annual bridge drive and ball was held in the Town Hall, Leamington, the proceeds from which are to be devoted to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

## Neath

The Mayor and Mayoress of Neath and other members of the Council were present at the tenth annual whist drive and dance, held in the Gwynn Hall, Neath, in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund and the Mayor of Neath's Poor Fund.

## Rugby

More than 200 people were present at an enjoyable whist drive and dance in connection with Rugby Branch, which had been jointly arranged by the branch and the Rugby Municipal Cricket Club. Mr. W. H. Spicer, the Borough Surveyor, was M.C., and the prizes were presented by the Mayoress, Mrs. McKinnell, who attended with the Mayor, Alderman J. J. McKinnell.

## Salop C.C.

There was a company of nearly 500 people at the annual whist drive and dance of the Salop County Officers' Branch held in the Music Hall, Shrewsbury, when a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

## Dewsbury

The annual whist drive and dance of the Dewsbury Branch was held in the Town Hall and from a social standpoint was a pronounced success. Over 200 guests were present, including the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. H. F. Shaw), members of the Town Council, and the president, Mr. Holland Booth (Town Clerk). The arrangements were efficiently carried out by the Social and Entertainments Sub-Committee, of which Mr. E. Auty is the capable honorary secretary.

## Durham C.C.

Some 250 persons sat down to the first annual dinner of the Durham County Officers' Branch which was held at the Three Tuns Hotel, Durham. In the absence of the president, (Mr. Harold Jevons), Mr. Hope, Deputy Clerk of the County Council, presided. Alderman W. N. Smith, M.A., chairman of the County Council, responded to the toast of "The Durham County Council," which was proposed by the divisional secretary, Mr. J. B. Swinden. Alderman Hedley Mason proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," which was responded to by Mr. R. E. Heron, chairman of the North-Eastern District Committee. Other speakers were Councillor G. W. Bloomfield, Mr. R. B. Hindmarsh (Public Assistant Officer), and Mr. V. Grainger, Newcastle.

## Walthamstow

The Walthamstow Branch held a dance and cabaret on January 20, approximately 200 members and friends being present. Among the guests were the Mayor (Councillor G. R. Lowton, J.P.) and the Mayoress, Councillors A. G. Bottomly, F. Redhead and W. B. Pitt, ex-Councillor Armstrong, and their ladies, and members from the L.C.C. Branch (No. 2 area). The President of the Branch (Mr. F. G. Garner, Town Clerk) welcomed the visitors, and congratulated Mr. A. E. Larkin (the Hon. Social Secretary) and the Committee on the manner in which the function had been organised.

## Norwich

As their first production, the newly-formed Amateur Dramatic Society of the Norwich Branch gave a clever interpretation of Noel Coward's comedy "Hay Fever." Only one member of the cast had previous experience of dramatics, and the players are to be congratulated on their effective unravelling of a series of extremely complicated situations. There was a large audience, and the event should provide a useful contribution in aid of the B. and O. Fund.

## Derby

Mr. A. Connor, Director of Public Cleansing and Transport Manager, delivered the third of a series of talks given by departmental chiefs of members of the branch. It had been stated that very few of the members knew much of the work

(Continued on page 576)

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

(Continued from page 575)

of departments other than their own, and the Executive Committee had arranged these talks in order that members could gain an insight into the purpose and work of other departments. Previous talks had been given by the Borough Electrical Engineer and the Borough Architect, and it was hoped gradually to cover the whole of the departments of the Corporation in this series. Mr. Connor gave an instructive talk on the work of the Cleansing and Transport Department, illustrated by lantern slides. An interesting discussion followed, showing the amount of interest taken by the members.

### Chesterfield R.D.C.

We are glad to report the formation, as from May 1, of a branch for the Rural District Council of Chesterfield and contiguous authorities.

### Crewe

Crewe Town Council have decided to have notices put up in the various departments of the Corporation, advising all workmen and officials to join their respective unions. As a result of this recommendation, three new members have been enrolled by the branch and nine who were in arrear with their subscriptions have rejoined.

### Altringham and District

The local B. & O. Funds of the branch have benefited by the sum of £9 1s., being the proceeds of a whist drive and dance held recently and organised by the Master and Matron and officials of the Bucklow Area Institution, Knutsford. This is not the first time, by any means, that the organisers of this very popular dance have contributed such a handsome amount to the B. & O. Fund, and the Branch Executive is particularly indebted to them for their continued support.

### Plymouth

Plymouth Branch held their annual dinner and dance under the chairmanship of the president, Mr. R. J. Fittall, Town Clerk. There was a record attendance of over 270 persons. The toast of "The Association" was proposed by the chairman of the Plymouth Branch, Mr. P. H. Cole, and responded to by Mr. L. Hill, general secretary, and Mr. M. O. McAuliffe (N.E.C. representative).

### Coalville

The B. and O. shield for the highest amount contributed per member in the East Midland District which Coalville Branch have won is displayed in the Council Chambers by permission of the Urban District Council. Coalville's contribution—£1 3s. 5d.—was the second highest in the country, and the Branch were warmly congratulated on this achievement by the chairman of the council. In connection with the efforts further to support the B. and O. fund the Branch recently held a successful dance.

### Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight Branch was attended by clerks of councils, surveyors, sanitary inspectors, rating officers, and other public servants from all parts of the island. There was an attendance of over 200. The dance was initiated by the Ryde members of the Association, and the organisation was carried out by the Town Clerk, Mr. T. J. Fawdry, and Mr. A. J. Read.

### Lancashire County Branch

The winners of the essay competition organised by the Lancashire County Branch in connection with the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School were Miss C. M. Liptrot, Public Assistance Department, Wigan, and Mr. F. C. Westley, Treasurer's Department, County

Offices, Preston. The adjudicator for the competition was Mr. W. F. Herbert, M.A., B.Sc., Secretary of Elementary Education, who reported that all the essays submitted were of a high level of attainment, the winning essays in particular being excellent in substance and construction. Each of the successful competitors will receive a cheque for six guineas, one presented by the branch and the other by the County Council, and will also be granted the necessary leave of absence in order to attend the Summer School at Cambridge.

Another interesting move by the County Branch in connection with the granting of educational facilities to members of the staff has resulted in the following resolution being passed by the Finance Committee of the Lancashire County Council:—"That the Committee approve of the principle of making a grant out of the County Fund equivalent to half the fees and half the travelling expenses to such members of the Staffs of the Lancashire County Council who enter for Evening Courses of Training or Study at the Universities in the County or other approved Institutions, subject to the Course being approved by the Committee and the entrant being recommended by the Clerk of the County Council, the County Director of Education and the Head of the Department concerned."

### West Riding County Officers

The recently re-formed Staincliffe Area committee of the West Riding County Officers Branch have, during the past winter session, held a series of lectures on "The Local Government Act, 1929," "History of Poor Law," and "A Nurse's Tour of Austria." Mr. Swinden, divisional secretary, gave a résumé on Whitleyism which was much appreciated. There has been an average attendance of thirty at the lectures.

### Porthcawl

A social club was inaugurated by the Porthcawl Branch this winter and during the season they have run a series of matches on the rifle range, at bagatelle and table tennis. The venture proved successful and it is hoped to continue again next winter. The Branch, during the winter, organised a successful whist drive and dance and they also secured the services of the Bridgend Players to perform *A Bill of Divorcement* on behalf of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

### Monmouthshire County Officers

The dramatic society of the Monmouthshire County Officers Branch recently gave an excellent performance of *Tilly of Bloomsbury*. Tribute must be paid to Mr. W. J. Walters who so capably directed the energies of a splendid collection of talent and ability. The object of the society's efforts is to provide revenue for the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

### Canterbury and District

A dance was held by the Canterbury and District Branch, the attendance numbering about 100. The Canterbury, Bridge, Herne Bay, Whitstable and Sittingbourne groups of the Branch were well represented.

### Irlam

A most successful social event was enjoyed by members of the Irlam Urban District Council and the officials and staff. The event was organised by Mr. R. Rutter, secretary of the local branch of the National Association of Local Government Officials, and took the form of a bowling contest, followed by dinner, during which Mr. J. G. Enticott (chairman of the Council) thanked the officials and staff for the very pleasant afternoon that had been spent, and hoped it would become an annual event. Mr. Exley, who responded, reciprocated the chairman's wish that a gathering of the kind would take place annually.

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## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

(Continued from page 576)

### Mansfield

Mr. A. C. Shepherd (Town Clerk), president, presided at the annual dinner of the Mansfield Branch. The guests included Mr. L. Hill, general secretary of the Association; Mr. A. B. Day, vice-president of the East Midland District Committee; the Mayor of Mansfield, Alderman J. A. Beck; Mr. Charles A. Brown, M.P. for Mansfield; Councillor W. H. Carter, chairman of the Mansfield Woodhouse U.D.C.; and members of the Mansfield Borough Council. The Mayor, in proposing "N.A.L.G.O. and the Mansfield and District Branch," referred to the remarkable growth of the Association under Mr. Hill's leadership. Mr. Hill, in responding, spoke of developments affecting local government officers which had taken place during his connection with the Association, notably superannuation and the issue of a Departmental Committee Report which, for the first time, tended to place the local government service on a rational and well-thought-out basis. The president of the branch (Mr. A. C. Shepherd) also responded to the toast.

### Newcastle-under-Lyme

The tenth annual dinner of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Branch was held in the Municipal Hall. Dr. Adam White (president of the branch) presided, and among those present were Dr. A. Wotherspoon (vice-president of N.A.L.G.O.), the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, members of the Council, and chief officials. Alderman J. Beresford, Deputy Mayor, in proposing the toast of the Association and the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, mentioned the splendid work done by the branch for the fund. Dr. A. Wotherspoon responded and referred to the Association's work in improving educational standards among local government officers. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

### Scunthorpe and Frodingham

The first annual dinner of Scunthorpe and Frodingham Branch was a most successful and enjoyable function. The president of the branch, Mr. J. T. Shawcroft (Accountant and Rating and Valuation Officer) presided. The speakers included Mr. J. E. N. Davis (divisional secretary of N.A.L.G.O.), and Councillor E. Kennedy (chairman of the Council). Several chairmen of the various committees were among the other guests. Councillor Kennedy, proposing the toast of the National Association, spoke in appreciative terms of the local officials, and of the value of association to the local government officer.

### Bingley

The annual whist drive and dance of the Bingley Branch was held on March 9, the function being very well attended. The whist prizes were presented by Mrs. A. R. Bentley, wife of the Chairman of the Council, whilst Mr. Bentley acted as M.C. for dancing. Representatives were present from Keighley and Shipley, as well as various members of the Council. The financial success of the affair was also highly gratifying and will enable the branch to make a fairly large donation to the B. & O. Fund.

### Erith

Representatives of almost every public activity in the district were included in the company of over 170 at the annual staff dinner of the Erith Branch, presided over by Mr. J. H. Clayton (President). Among those present were Professor R. G. H. Clements (Maybury Chair of Highway Engineering, London University), Mr. H. T. Chapman, the

retiring County Surveyor of Kent; Mr. D. S. Twigg, Clerk to Erith U.D.C., and Mr. A. E. Scott-Murray, Engineer to the West Kent Main Sewerage Board. Special thanks were extended to Mr. Walker, Social Secretary, and Mr. Rushbrook, who designed and executed the decorations in N.A.L.G.O. colours.

### Mid-Herts

The Mid-Herts Branch held their first annual dinner at Welwyn Garden City. Among the guests were the Chairman of Welwyn Garden City U.D.C., Hatfield R.D.C. and Welwyn R.D.C. Councillor G. S. Lindgren, J.P., C.C., Chairman of the Welwyn Garden City U.D.C., proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O." and Mr. T. M. Kershaw, Divisional Secretary, Metropolitan and Eastern Districts, responded. Other toasts were proposed by Mr. B. H. Deamer (President) and Mr. E. F. Cull (Vice-Chairman). An entertaining musical programme followed, contributed to by members of the branch.

### Torquay

At Torquay Branch's first annual dinner and dance over eighty members and their friends were present. The function was a marked success. In the absence of the President (Mr. Herbert A. Hield), the chair was taken by Mr. Edwin C. Riding (Vice-President), who proposed the toast of the Association. Mr. Riding made suggestions for maintaining the keen interest of members. Among the chief officials present were Messrs. E. W. Goss, F. G. Cousins and S. H. Lane.

### Willesden

The annual dinner and dance of the Willesden Branch was presided over by Mr. A. W. Blake (President and Borough Electrical Engineer). A company of more than 240 participated, including the Mayor and Mayoress, and Mr. Frank R. Finch (Chairman, Metropolitan District Committee), Mr. W. Hynes, a late member of the branch, and now Chairman of the Eastbourne Branch, made a special journey from Eastbourne to be present. Dancing and a cabaret followed the dinner, and it was agreed by all present that the excellent arrangements of the hon. social secretary, Mr. S. V. Sheriff, were largely responsible for a very enjoyable function.

### Redcar

A new Branch of the Association has been formed at Redcar, the Honorary Secretary of which is Mr. F. F. Harwood, and the Honorary Treasurer Mr. G. Foulkes, both of the Municipal Buildings, Redcar. There will be a commencing membership of approximately 60. A hearty welcome is extended to our Redcar colleagues.

### Dudley

The annual dinner of the Dudley Branch was held at the Saracen's Head Hotel. Mr. G. C. V. Cant, Town Clerk, presided over a large gathering, which included the chairmen of the principal committees and all the chief officials of the Corporation. Proposing the toast of the Association, which was responded to by Mr. G. A. Stone (N.E.C.), Alderman F. W. Cook said he did not think Dudley had ever had a better body of officials.

### Newark

The annual dance proved as popular an event as ever. A company of about 120 spent an enjoyable evening.

(Continued on next page)

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

*(Continued from page 577)*

### Stafford

Mr. J. H. Drury, Borough Sanitary Inspector, was elected president of the Stafford Branch at the annual meeting. It was reported that the membership stood at 81—practically 100 per cent.

### Wolverhampton

At the annual general meeting of the Wolverhampton Branch, Mr. W. C. Knill presided. The meeting, which was well attended, expressed warm appreciation of the successful action taken regarding salaries, and a resolution expressing the best thanks of the branch to the Salaries and Wages Committee, and in particular to the chairman, Alderman Bantock, was adopted. Mr. Wallace Wood was re-elected president.

### Mablethorpe and Sutton

On September 1 last, Mablethorpe and Sutton formed their own branch of N.A.L.G.O. and have now 100 per cent.—ten members. At their first annual general meeting, Mr. R. V. Lewis, A.L.A.A., was appointed chairman; Mr. T. R. Hodgson, secretary; and Mr. A. Roberts, treasurer and local correspondent.

For the winter months it was decided to form a branch debating society.

### Newport (Mon.)

The annual report of the Executive Committee records a steady increase in membership and successful all-round activity. Mr. N. T. J. Moses, Borough Treasurer and Comptroller, was elected president for 1934.

### Stockport

The annual meeting of the Stockport Branch was held under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Willacy, president. The report of the Executive Committee showed there had been a good increase in membership during the year, while there was also a definite improvement of the auxiliaries of the Association—the Provident and Approved Societies. Mr. W. P. Fox, chief organising secretary at headquarters, addressed the meeting.

### Macclesfield

A very successful annual dance and whist drive was held by the Macclesfield Branch. Many well-known people were present, including the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. T. M. Abraham), Sir Thomas and Lady Taylor, J.P., and members of the Town Council.

### Liverpool

The annual dinner of the Liverpool Branch was held at the Exchange Hotel. The Lord Mayor and members of the City Council, the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, and other principal municipal officers were among the guests. Mr. G. W. Coster, president of the branch, was in the chair.

### Derby

Derby Branch has arranged a series of lectures which are being given by the heads of the various departments. The first lecture was delivered by the president of the branch, Mr. F. Nicholls, Borough Electrical Engineer. The Mayor of Derby, Councillor H. Staney, kindly presided, and warmly approved the action of the branch in arranging such an interesting venture.

### Cumberland

The annual meeting of the Cumberland Branch was held at Penrith. In view of his impending retirement from the service, Mr. Wainwright resigned the office of President. Mr. Wainwright, who has been for 50 years Clerk to the Penrith Urban District Council, was one of the original founders of the Branch

and the members are subscribing towards a memento in appreciation of his services. The new President is Dr. K. Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. T. L. Williams and Mr. W. A. Elliott were re-elected Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively.

### Rochdale

The branch has sent a donation of £16 16s. od. to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund as acknowledgment and appreciation of the services of the Divisional Secretary, Mr. Corser, in the negotiations which led to the termination of the economy deductions.

### West Riding

The review of county districts in the West Riding of Yorkshire is now well in hand, and considerable interest allied with some anxiety is being indicated by members who are likely to be affected. The Divisional Secretary, during the past few weeks, has addressed the Wath, Bolton and Thurnscoe, the Mexborough and District, the Rothwell and District, and the Airedale and Wharfedale Branches on the matter. Every possible step is being taken by the Association to safeguard the interests of those who may be concerned.

### Kidderminster

The annual general meeting of the Kidderminster Branch was held at the Town Hall, Kidderminster, recently. Mr. J. H. Thursfield, M.C., T.D., Town Clerk, presided over an excellent attendance, and was unanimously re-elected President. Reports indicated that the branch membership was now nearly 100 per cent., and that there was keen all-round interest. The football section had had a successful year. The meeting was addressed by the Divisional Secretary.

### Leicester

The Divisional Secretary attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Leicester Branch on March 6. Many questions of vital importance to the local officers were discussed. Attendance at such meetings would soon revise the opinions of those officers who still question the value of associated effort.

### Birmingham

At the annual general meeting of the Birmingham Branch, satisfaction was expressed at the steady growth of membership of the branch. Reference was also made to the splendid support the branch continued to give to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Dr. H. T. Kirkland was re-elected president.

### Burton-upon-Trent

At the annual meeting of the Burton-upon-Trent Branch, Mr. H. Reading, who had held the office of honorary secretary for the past seven years, was appointed president of the branch. Mr. A. G. Earp, of the Town Clerk's Department, was elected honorary secretary.

### Salford

Formed in February, 1931, under the Chairmanship of Mr. P. Baker, of the Town Clerk's Department, the Nalgo (Salford Branch) Dramatic Society has a large and talented membership. Among the plays which have been produced are *Tons of Money*, *Rookery Nook*, *The Patsy*, *Easy Virtue*, *By Candlelight*. In addition, original plays by members of the Society have been presented, namely, *The Locket*, by Mr. F. K. Dooley; *The Rehearsal*, by Mr. J. Alfred Scotton; *Big Business* and *Nothing Ever Happens* by Mr. F. V. Moores. On March 10, 12 and 13 the Society produced, with great success, Barrie's well-known play

*Dear Brutus*. A series of members' nights has been started at which new talent is tested, both with regard to acting and producing.

### Southgate

The annual supper, dance and social of the Southgate Branch was held under the chairmanship of Mr. W. E. George, Deputy Town Clerk (president). Whist and competitions were indulged in, and thanks to the good organising ability of the special committee comprising Messrs. S. P. Bolton, G. E. Mitchell and E. E. Stockwell, there was not a dull moment. For the first time a Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough were present at the annual supper, for since the event last year, Southgate had been granted its Charter of Incorporation. The Mayor referred to the fact that Alderman Pullinger, his friend, was one of the founders of the Association.

### Haslingden

The eighth annual dinner of the Haslingden Branch was held recently. The president, Miss L. Hurd, proposed the loyal toast, and that of "N.A.L.G.O." was proposed by the Town Clerk, the response being made by Mr. T. Freeman, member of the National Executive Council. "The Mayor and Members of the Town Council" was submitted by Mr. F. Green (Borough Treasurer) and the Mayor (Captain W. H. Baxter, M.C.) responded. Alderman J. Lord, J.P. (chairman of the local Whitley Committee) was entrusted with the toast of "The Haslingden Branch," and Miss Hurd (Borough Librarian) responded.

### Stockport

The annual dinner of the Stockport Branch was held recently. Mr. G. H. Oldroyd, president of the branch, presided, and among the guests were the Mayor (Alderman J. Coupe, J.P.), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor G. Gill, J.P.), Dr. A. Wotherspoon (Medical Officer of Health of Stoke and senior vice-president of N.A.L.G.O.), and Mr. L. Hill, general secretary. The Mayor, in proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O. and the Stockport Branch," said the Association had done much to raise the educational standard of the entry to municipal service.

### Southport

The annual dinner of the Southport Branch was held recently. Mr. A. B. Dawson, president of the branch, presided, and was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor Dr. E. W. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor G. E. Hardman and Mrs. Hardman), Mr. J. W. Wilkinson (vice-president of the Southport Branch, chairman of the North-Western District, and member of the National Executive Council), Mr. G. W. Coster (vice-president of the Association), and Mr. C. A. Ruscoe (formerly honorary treasurer of the North-Western District).

### N.A.L.G.O. SUNSHINE CRUISE

On July 28, the s.s. *Alondra* will sail from Liverpool on the sixteenth annual sea cruise organized by the Association to the Canary Islands. For twenty-three days all the joys of cruising in foreign parts will be experienced by those who will have been fortunate enough to have booked berths—and they will have been fortunate because there are, at the date of going to press, only a very few left. If you want to be fortunate and if you want—as most of us do—to obtain the best value for £23, then communicate at once with the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, and reserve your berth. If you procrastinate for one day, the chances are that you will "miss the boat."

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## WHERE TO STAY

(Continued from cover iii)

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# HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

**I**N view of the grave doubt about Antirrhinum which has arisen consequent on the new disease I repeat my former advice to consider Zonals ("Geraniums"), and further I herewith fulfil my promise to name a few exceptionally good bedding varieties.

I have nothing to name calculated to displace forthwith the overwhelmingly popular Paul Crampel as a crimson Zonal, nor can I name an orange-coloured variety superior to Maximus Kovalsky; for in their respective colour classes these two grand varieties still reign supreme. But I am glad to be able to recommend a fine salmon-coloured Zonal which I saw last year under the names of Salmon Crampel and Victory (I assume the variety to be the same under two different names; anyway, they resemble each other closely) for this is a really good acquisition. King of Denmark, salmon pink, is a grand old bedder. Two varieties with the double interest of attractive foliage and flowers are Mr. H. Cox, an old tricolor (leaf) which was highly popular in the days of my youth, and which has salmon flowers; and Mrs. Parker, silvery leaves and rosily-red flowers. I do not recall the latter in the far-back days to which I have just referred, when we grew Queen of Roses, or perhaps Flower of Spring, as a silver-leaf; I am afraid these old favourites have gone the way of all flesh, together with the bicolor Mrs. Pollock, the yellow-leaved Crystal Palace Gem, and others. A silvery-leaved Zonal is a most useful bedding plant because it makes so charming a base for such things as Violas, Verbenas, fibrous-rooted Begonias, annual Phloxes, and Nemesis. A graceful grass such as Panicum virgatum or Dactylis elegans may be added to such mixtures with advantage.

### Ivy-leaved Geraniums

But what of Ivy-leaved Geraniums, some reader may ask? Exactly—what about them? Well, they are delightful bedders, too, and I have no quarrel with the amateur who grows them in preference to Zonals, always provided he selects varieties of character. I am, however, heartily tired of Madame Crousse, for the complexion of this world-worn lady, washy as it is, compares ill with the modern sort Tiberias, which is deeper rose than Galilee, itself deeper than Madame Crousse. Then there is the crimson-scarlet Sir Percy Blakeney, which more than takes the place of the older Souvenir de Charles Turner and even of Scarlet Crousse.

I am glad to see the old salmon-pink Ryecroft Surprise still in the lists, as it is a worthy sort. It must not be forgotten that these and other double Ivy-leaves are good for hanging baskets and window boxes as well as for beds.

Dahlia-planting time is still with us. I urge the preparation and driving-in of stakes before planting. In the March issue I told readers to look out for a selection of varieties and here are a few chosen from the best bedding groups. Beginning with the so-called "Decorative" varieties, which have double flowers borne well above the leaves and are much superior to Cactus Dahlias, I have complete confidence in recommending Beautiful Fairy, rose; Delice, pink; Fireman, scarlet; Frau Lotta Heitman, salmon; King Albert, purple-maroon; Ladybird, salmon-rose; Queen Mary, lilac-pink; The Prince, crimson; W. D. Cartwright, yellow; and White Queen (or White King). From the Collarette group I would take Brilliance, scarlet and orange; Glen Eagles, crimson and white; Glen Lyon, orange-yellow and white; Green Park, yellow; Islay, scarlet and yellow; Pilot, purplish crimson and white; Pip, crimson and yellow; and Swallow, white.

I consider this section also much superior to

Cactus for both garden and cutting. The dwarf bedders of the red Coltness Gem or Mignon type, such as Butterfly, yellow; Lady Aileen, pink; Lady Daresbury, scarlet with yellow tips; and Paisley Gem, orange-scarlet, should be borne in mind, as they are low and bushy, do not need stakes, and flower profusely over a long period.

### Special Selections

In connection with the purchase of Dahlias, and indeed of other popular flowers such as Carnations and Chrysanthemums, which can still be planted from pots, it is a good plan for those amateurs who cannot afford to pick modern novelties to look out for the special selections offered by florists of good standing at popular prices. Just as an example, I quote from one list a collection of twelve Chrysanthemums for the garden which I am ordering, as follows: Agnes Gibson, Alecto, Alex. A. McAlpine, Daffodil, Jean Philp, Kate McIvor, Kingcup, Mrs. Douglas Foxwell, Shirley Pride, Sunbeam, Velvet Fingers, and White Splendour, 5s. 6d. the lot, carriage paid. One may not know every variety in such a list, but is quite safe with a firm of repute, which may be trusted to send a good substitute if any particular variety is sold out.

The reader who wants something really brilliant in a bed and fights shy of Zonals should think of Salvias, which are not expensive. The modern variety Harbinger has become an established favourite, as its habit is compact and it blooms both early and long. Or for a nice block of colour of a rather softer shade he might think of Petunia Rosy Morn or even the older P. Countess of Ellesmere.

Begonia-lovers who have a nice batch of tuberous varieties coming on in pots are as well placed as anybody for a beautiful bed rather late in the season. Plants may go out any time now if the site is not windswept or arid. They dislike cutting winds and hot, dry places.

Delphiniums and Lupins are strong; let the tying be continuous, please, so as to avoid bunching the shoots. Dwarfer things, such as Carnations and Gladioli, will also be the better for good support, and in this connection remember the cheap metal rings offered at low rates, for they save time in attaching flower-stems to the supports.

### Sweet Peas

Sweet Peas that are not being pruned will, of course, support themselves provided sticks were set; but disbudded plants will need frequent attention for the next few weeks, indeed throughout the whole of the growing and flowering season if the best is to be got out of them, axillary shoots being nipped off at sight. When the plants are fairly in swing, having got safely past the slug stage, and already making a bold show on the poles or rods, I would try to mulch the ground along the rows with manure, or mixed manure and lawn-mowings, so as to reduce the necessity for watering.

Rose growers will be on the qui vive for insect and mildew attacks, while rosarians who have specially fine flowers in view will be disbudding.

The Bedford County Branch, at its annual meeting, elected Mr. A. W. H. Poole as president for the forthcoming year and Mr. W. Richards (Luton), vice-president. An interesting address on the activities of N.A.L.G.O. was given by Mr. Day, a member of the National Executive Council. A resolution was passed expressing the desire for a Provincial Whitley Council to be formed in this area.

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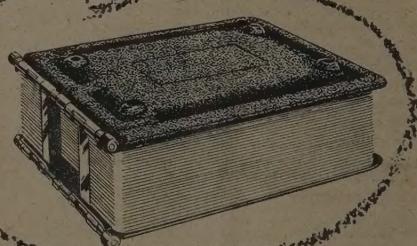
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